Hafa Adai!

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Marianas Southern Airways sets new route, increased frequency. **PAGE 2**
New move reduces financial burden of US territories. **PAGE 3**

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IGIA PLENARY SESSION
Along with other U.S. insular area governors and congressional representatives, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios on Wednesday presented the CNMI's challenges and requests for federal assistance at the senior plenary session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas, organized by the U.S. Department of Interior. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland; assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor; director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Julie Chavez Rodriguez; and White House senior adviser and infrastructure coordinator Mitch Landrieu were also present at the session. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) also presented at the IGIA. Palacios will also be testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where he will be presenting on the state of the CNMI affairs to committee chair Joe Manchin and other U.S. senators. In photo with Palacios and Sablan is U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Albert Bryan Jr., Guam Gov. Lourdes "Lou" Leon Guerrero, American Samoa Gov. Lemanu Mauga, Cantor, and U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Stacey Plaskett. Not shown in photo are American Samoa Delegate Amata Coleman Radewagen and Guam Delegate James C. Moylan. ***Story on Page 3***

2 IPI auction sales OK'd

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has approved the sales results from the second and third auction of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's gaming equipment.

RELATED NEWS
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Following a confirmation hearing yesterday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona
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THE STORY OF PUA

By LEILA STAFFLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Leila Staffler is the acting CNMI Labor secretary.

Since joining the team at the Department of Labor, one of the most common inquiries I get has been about the PUA program. I have spent the majority of my time in these first weeks learning about PUA and all the changes that have oc-
See PUA on Page 4

SPECIAL REPORT: Are we ready?

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the past two years, the CNMI has been tirelessly working to kick-start the resumption of its tourism industry, which was devastated globally by the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts toward this end has had some success, and the numbers are trickling up bit by bit, with some indus-
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Hope fading as deaths in Turkey, Syria quake near 12,000

By MEHMET GUZEL, GHAITH ALSAYED, SUZAN FRASER and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZIANTEP, Turkey (AP) —With hope of finding survivors fading, stretched rescue teams in Turkey and Syria searched Wednesday for signs of life in the rubble of thousands of buildings toppled by the world's deadliest earthquake in more than a decade. The confirmed death toll approached 12,000.

Turkish President Recep
See QUAKE on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Docomo Pacific completes a multi-million dollar mobile network investment in the Marianas.
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OFF THE WALL
A tiny mouse now has a big title after winning a Guinness World record for longevity.
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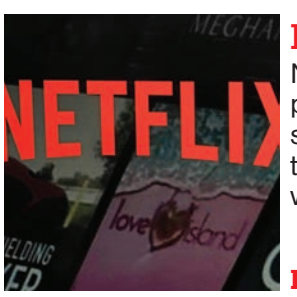

LIFE & STYLE
Netflix has a new program that lets subscribers pay extra to share their account with people.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

ARC
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Local

USA Fanter wants judgment vs IPI to be enforced

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

USA Fanter Ltd. has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to enforce its previous judgment of over $200,000 against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in USA Fanter's most recent breach of contract lawsuit.

USA Fanter, through attorney Colin Thompson, has asked the District Court to enforce its $226,127.05 judgment against IPI for the casino investor's failure to post a supersedeas bond as previously stipulated by the parties, and because the judgment remains unsatisfied.

"The court entered judgment in this cause on Nov. 30, 2022, in favor of U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd., in the amount of $226,127.05, against IPI. IPI has not posted a supersedeas bond and has not obtained an order staying execution on the judgment. The automatic stay operated only for 30 days from the date of the judgment expired on Dec. 30, 2022. Accordingly, USA Fanter requests that the writ of execution take effect and be served by the U.S. Marshal as soon as practicable," said Thompson in the application for writ of execution.

To satisfy this judgment, USA Fanter has asked the court to authorize the sale of IPI's vehicles in an auction in order to pay USA Fanter and satisfy the judgment. "USA Fanter also requests that the court order IPI to maintain all the vehicles' registrations, insurance, and maintenance. IPI shall store the vehicles either in the underground parking lot of the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino or at the IPI housing located in Chinatown and shall not damage or cause the vehicles to be damaged," Thompson said.

USA. Fanter sued IPI because it failed to pay a construction staging lease agreement, a construction contract, quarry products, and heavy equipment rentals.

Marianas Southern Airways sets new route, increased frequency

The CNMI's newest airline, Marianas Southern Airways, has announced a new route linking Rota to Guam and an evening Guam to Saipan flight.

"Following the recent delivery of another brand-new twin-engine air-conditioned aircraft, we are delighted to announce that Marianas Southern Airways is opening up a double daily Rota-Guam direct service effective Feb. 13," said MSA president Keith Stewart.

The flights will operate Monday to Friday. The morning service will depart Rota at 8:20am and arrive in Guam at 8:55am. The return flight leaves Guam at 9:25am and arrives at Rota at 10am, according to Stewart. "With the afternoon service departing Guam at 3:30pm and returning from Rota at 4:25pm, this schedule will enable same-day travel to Guam and Rota, which has been a request of the business community for some time," Stewart said.

"The introduction of this additional aircraft has also allowed Marianas Southern

See AIRWAYS on Page 4

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New move reduces financial burden of US territories

The Biden-Harris administration announced yesterday new efforts to reduce the financial burden on the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands. The Office of Management and Budget has directed all federal agencies and departments to waive local cost share requirements under $200,000 for grants for the four U.S. territories. For local matching funds $200,000 and greater, agencies and departments may waive the matching requirement for these four territories.

President Joe Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act are providing once-in-a-generation climate and infrastructure resources to the U.S. territories, including investments in ecosystem restoration and climate resilience. Yesterday's announcement will help ensure U.S. territories have the investments they need to develop a long-term plan to facilitate conservation, resiliency and economic growth.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced at the Interagency Group on Insular Areas annual conference for territorial governors, members of Congress and other federal government officials yesterday that the Interior Department will extend the waiver of all match requirements, regardless of amount.

"Accelerated by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, the Interior Department is making coordinated investments in the U.S. territories to conserve public lands and ecosystems, bolster climate resilience, and safeguard the environment for future generations," said Haaland. "In implementing this new policy, territorial governments will have greater flexibility to access these funds, further equipping them to upgrade critical infrastructure and invest in climate resilience."

Haaland and Julie Chávez Rodriguez, senior adviser to the President and director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, serve as the IGIA co-chairs and delivered remarks at yesterday's event, which was moderated by Carmen G. Cantor, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. Mitch Landrieu, senior adviser to the President and White House infrastructure coordinator, and Winnie Stachelberg, Interior Department senior adviser and infrastructure coordinator, also participated.

"President Biden is committed to expanding access to federal programs and breaking barriers for disadvantaged and underrepresented communities," said Rodriguez. "This policy will help level the playing field and enable access to new resources for the territories."

At yesterday's IGIA meeting, representatives from the departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency shared updates related to ongoing implementation of these historic laws. They highlighted how these resources are helping assist the territories in upgrading critical infrastructure and bolstering resilience against climate change and extreme weather events.

Established by Executive Order 13537, the IGIA convenes the leadership of the U.S. territories to advance key issues such as climate change, economic development, energy and infrastructure, health, education, public safety, justice and other issues as prioritized. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SHAWN CURTIS HOLT Petitioner, vs. MERLY BACANI HOLT Respondent,	: : : : :	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0456 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on the file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 667 P.O. Box 10001 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts of filling.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court

ROBERT T. TORRES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
5960 Plata Drive
P.O. Box 500730 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Bernadita "Bennet" T. Seman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FELIPE MCGUINNESS SEMAN, Aka FELIPE IGIBOR SEMAN, Deceased.	: : : : : : : :	Civil Action No. 91-0918 P NOTICE OF HEARING DATE: March 2, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

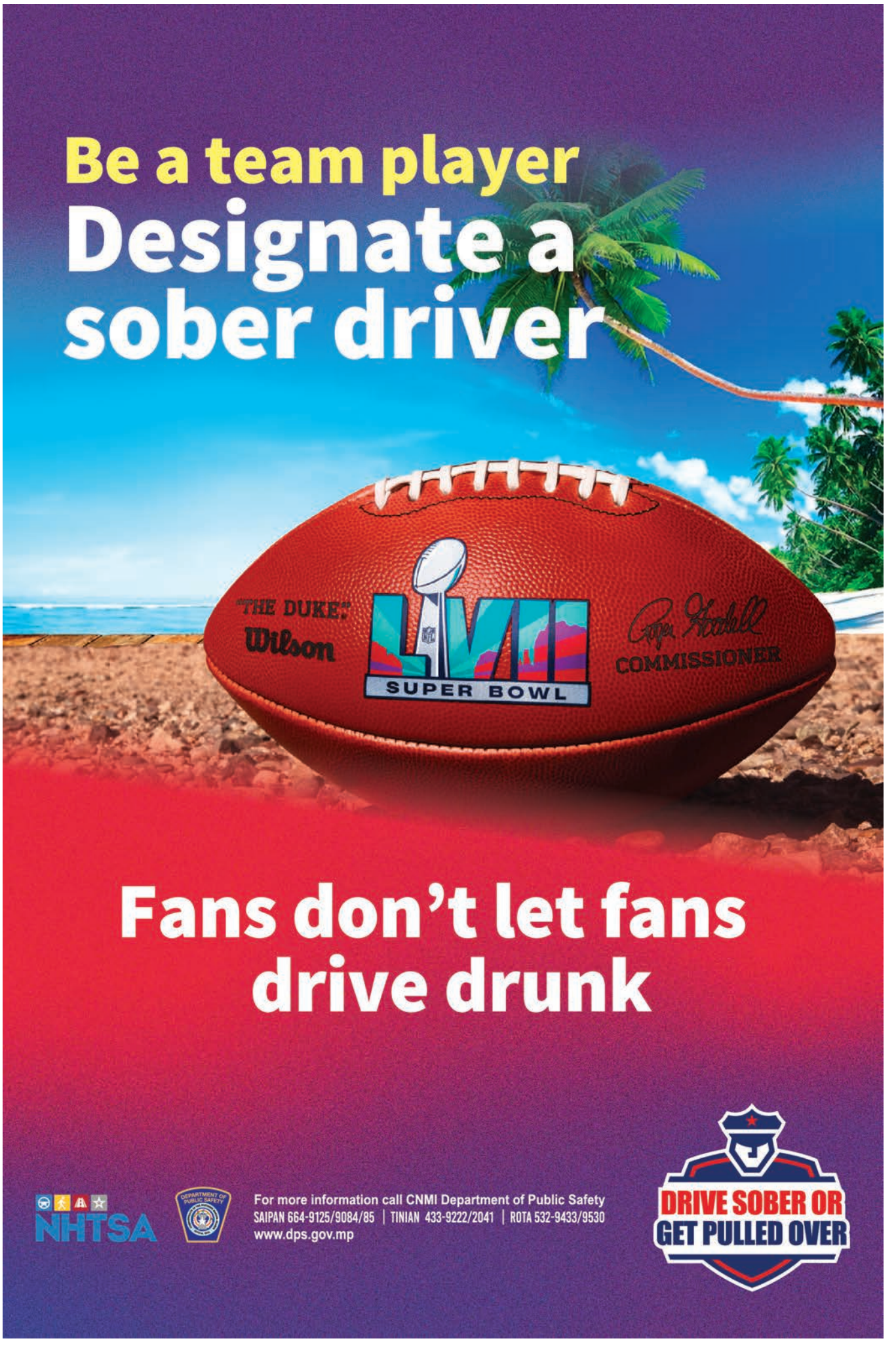
TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE FELIPE MCGUINNESS SEMAN aka FELIPE IGIBOR SEMAN OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **BERNADITA "BENNET" T. SEMAN** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue a Verified Petition to Proceed with Probate Proceedings toward Distribution and Appointment of Administratrix for the Estate of Felipe Mcguinnes Seman aka Felipe Igibor Seman, the decedent. The proposed Administratrix is Bernadita "Bennet" T. Seman. The Attorney for the Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law**, at the address above indicated.

Dated this 3rd day of February 2023

/s/
Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court



Ex-Rep. Babauta named special assistant for Homeland Security

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Babauta

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed former representative Franklin R. Babauta as special assistant for the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Palacios also appointed businessman Diego M. Sablan as special assistant for Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program.

Their appointments do not need Senate confirmation.

Babauta was the Precinct 1 representative in 2020. He served in the 21st Legislature for only about two months to finish the term of then-Rep. Edwin K. Propst, who had resigned as Precinct 1 representative. He served in the House until Jan. 11, 2021. His wife is Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan).

» Sablan appointed as special assistant for Substance Abuse, Addition, and Rehabilitation Program

Babauta retired from the Department of Public Safety in 2006 with the last rank as deputy commissioner for administration.

In 2007, he moved to Guam and joined the Guam National Guard. He was then deployed to Afghanistan. He retired with a rank of lieutenant colonel in 2015 after serving over 25 years in the U.S. Army, Army Reserves, and Guam National Guard.

Babauta has been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. He served on Peacekeeping Missions in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia.

In protecting the country, Babauta received many awards, including a Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and NATO Medal.

He graduated from the University of Guam with a Bachelor Science in Criminal Justice and minored in Military Science.

As for Sablan, he is the owner of DM Sablan Holdings Co., LLC Youth Empowerment Solutions CNMI, and Pacific Drug Testing Services. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Saipan and a licensed commercial submarine captain.

QUAKE

From Page 1

Tayyip Erdogan visited the especially hard-hit Hatay province, where more than 3,300 people died and entire neighborhoods were destroyed. Residents there have criticized the government's response, saying rescuers were slow to arrive.

Erdogan, who faces a tough battle for reelection in May, acknowledged "shortcomings" in the response to Monday's 7.8 magnitude quake but said the winter weather had been a factor. The earthquake destroyed the runway in Hatay's airport, further disrupting the response.

"It is not possible to be prepared for such a disaster," Erdogan said. "We will not leave any of our citizens uncared for." He also hit back at critics, saying "dishonorable people" were spreading "lies and slander" about the government's response.

Turkish authorities say they are targeting disinformation, and an internet monitoring group said access to Twitter was restricted despite it being used by survivors to alert rescuers.

Search teams from more than two dozen countries have joined tens of thousands of local emergency personnel in Syria and Turkey. But the scale of destruction from the quake and its powerful aftershocks was so immense and spread over such a wide area—including a region isolated by Syria's ongoing civil war—that many people were still awaiting help.

Experts said the survival window for those trapped under the rubble or otherwise unable to obtain basic necessities was closing rapidly. At the same time, they said it was too soon to abandon hope.

"The first 72 hours are considered to be critical," said Steven Godby, a natural hazards expert at Nottingham Trent University in England. "The survival ratio on average within 24 hours is 74%, after 72 hours it is 22% and by the fifth day it is 6%."

Rescuers at times used excavators or picked gingerly through debris. With thousands of buildings toppled, it was not clear how many people might still be caught in the rubble.

In the Turkish city of Malatya, bodies were placed side by side on the ground and covered in blankets while rescuers waited for vehicles to pick them up, according to former journalist Ozel Pikal, who said he saw eight bodies pulled from the ruins of a building.

Pikal, who took part in the rescue efforts, said he thinks at least some of the victims froze to death as temperatures dipped to minus 6 degrees Celsius (21 Fahrenheit).

"As of today, there is no hope left in Malatya," Pikal said by telephone. "No one is coming out alive from the rubble."

Road closures and damage in the region made it hard to access all the areas that need help, he said, and there was a shortage of rescuers where he was.

"Our hands cannot pick up anything because of the cold," said Pikal. "Work machines are needed."

The region was already beset by more than a decade of civil war in Syria. Millions have been displaced within Syria itself and millions more have sought refuge in Turkey.

PUA

From Page 1

curred since its inception. The way I see it, the story of PUA begins as one of emergency and urgency. It was as if the great flood began before Noah had finished building the ark, except that the CNMI was building the ship while we were already on the water. There were many holes in the ship taking on water, but we had to keep it afloat at all costs. In that process, there were a lot of growing pains that both the community and the agency had to bear.

To start, I want to acknowledge the frustrations shared across the public discourse, from backyard conversations to Facebook group outreach: Yes, there were problems with the call center being busy, unhelpful and sometimes incorrect. Yes, there were documents lost, sometimes multiple times, there was portal confusion and portal mistakes. Yes, employees needed more training, more empathy and more support to be able to meet the urgent needs of the CNMI residents who are entitled to this benefit. Yes, you deserve to be heard. We have been listening. You have been heard.

We at the Department of Labor want to help build some understanding on all sides of the story so the community can see the immense efforts that have been made toward improving the process and service to the people who have been waiting so long.

What I have found in the short time I have been with the department is that it is very clear that the gathering and submission of supporting documents represents the greatest hurdle for claimants and adjudicators in finalizing PUA claims.

The adjudication process sometimes takes weeks or even months to complete. The fastest adjudications happen for claimants with complete documents, who were U.S. citizens, furloughed/terminated, and non-business owners. In reality, most cases are not so simple and clear cut. Most PUA cases are more complicated depending on the PUA claimant's individual status as an employee or employer; visa holder or a U.S. worker; whether or not they had reduced hours, were furloughed or experienced a layoff. The sheer fact that there is a lack of standardization of documentation in the private sector is a huge hurdle for adjudicators. Think of all the different ways employers monitor time—very few timesheets/cards are the same, adjudicators must learn to decode each type of timesheet to include in a claim. This takes time and training.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI

From Page 1

approved the request of court-appointed receiver, Clear Management, to approve the sales made from the second and third auction of IPI's gaming equipment.

During the hearing, Manglona also granted the receiver's request for commission and expenses and granted the attorney's fees it incurred through December 2022.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the total sales for the second and third auctions amounted to $353,642.

Clear Management, through attorney Michael White, previously asked the District Court for the NMI to approve the sales results.

White also requested the court to issue an order directing the receiver to collect the remaining 85% of the successful bids, to execute the appropriate bills of sale, and to deliver the items sold to the successful bidders.

After the second auction, White said bids were received from eight bidders but only four were successful. Of the four successful bidders, two were successful bidders from auction one and two were new bidders. There were four unsuccessful bidders, of which one was a successful bidder from auction one, White told the court.

The total of the acceptable bids was $252,092.

Following the third auction, White said bids were received from six bidders.

White informed the court that bids were accepted for 14 lots from two different bidders, two of which were successful bidders in previous auctions, and one a new bidder.

White said the total value of the bids accepted was $101,550.

READY

From Page 1

try experts predicting the full-blown resumption of tourism by 2024 or 2025. Which begs the question: At this point, with the number of returning tourists still rising, are we ready for them?

Fifty-four percent of respondents in a *Saipan Tribune* poll that asks that questions says yes, but a surprisingly large percentage (42.05%) says no, while a negligible 3.41% are undecided. A cursory look at some of the more popular tourist sites on the islands paints a stark picture. Since the onslaught of catastrophic super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu back in 2015 and 2018, respectively, the CNMI's tourism industry was crippled, and it took years for the industry to regain momentum. Then came 2020, when the world was hit with the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again, the CNMI's tourism industry, which still bore fresh scars from Yutu and Soudelor, was brought to its knees, plunging to near zero visitors.

Because of these circumstances, many of our tourist sites were left to deteriorate and were left unattended as the CNMI focused much of its resources into rebuilding. Some of the most visited sites on island—the Banzai Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, and Suicide Cliff—were left unchecked and to date remain unsafe and unseemly.

Saipan Tribune visited these sites in the last week and, once again, what we found insistently begs the question: Are we ready to receive tourists?

Take the Banzai Cliff for example. Its cement rails have seen better days, to put it mildly. Aside from the fact that these railings are no longer stable, large chunks of it have rotted away, making them completely unsafe for adults and children alike.

Next is Bird Island Lookout. Going up there in itself is a challenge. Patches and stretches of the once smoothly laid asphalt have become deformed and potholed, making for a challenging trip to the site. In addition, the Bird Island Lookout site itself has also become unsafe, with large chunks of the railings completely broken off.

Suicide Cliff, although a little less dangerous compared to the other two, no longer holds its charm. The once-historic site is now so heavily vandalized that the history is no longer the highlight of the area.

Aside from the three, other tourist spots on Marpi have lost their luster and have become a cause for concern as tourist continue to return.

Gloria Cavanagh, the acting Marianas Visitors Authority board chair, herself acknowledges that the island is not ready to receive tourists. The hotels, yes, they are ready, but the tourist sites are a different story.

"We do have to look at our destination enhancement. That's the biggest part. There are some safety issues that we need to address. However, when it comes to our hotels, we are ready. Our hotels have been investing [in the CNMI]," she said.

Cavanagh added that destination enhancement does not only fall on the hands of MVA, but with its partner agencies who they are working with to garner enough funds for much needed revival of these sites.

"We would have to work with our other agency partners like Department of Public Works and Department of Lands and Natural Resources and see if we can combine whatever funds we have to enhance our destination. We are also trying to see what we have available. When it comes to repair work and reviving the sites, [jurisdiction] is also still an issue," she said.

In an interview with acting DLNR Division of Parks and Recreation director Ray Sablan, he said that DLNR has the personnel, they have the trades and skills to do much needed repair work, but it all boils down to revenue.

"The funding to renovate these sites is the big question mark. We have the trades, we have skilled personnel who are ready to work on these sites, but we don't have the revenue for it," he said.

AIRWAYS

From Page 2

Airways to schedule a weekday evening flight from Guam to Saipan to provide a same-day Saipan arrival for passengers traveling from Honolulu," said Bill Giles, MSA's vice president, CNMI/Guam. "No longer will passengers arriving from Honolulu have to stay overnight in Guam, providing savings on the cost of a hotel," he added.

The airline's revised schedule also sees an additional weekday Saipan to Guam flight at 7pm, providing greater flexibility for those people requiring longer business or leisure days on Saipan and Guam. These flights also commence on Feb. 13.

Flight bookings can be made at https://iflymarianas.com/ ***(PR)***

Ready, set, quack!

In a move meant to benefit the CNMI Cancer Association, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and the Marianas March Against Cancer will be collaborating to host the PIC Duck Race for Cancer, at 6pm on Feb. 24, 2023, at the PIC resort in San Antonio.

And no, it's not a race for real-live ducks. The PIC Duck Race involves rubber ducks that will be floated along PIC's lazy river, and the first toy duck to reach the finish line wins its owner a cash prize.

Those who wish to participate can buy a rubber duck for $5 each, which means the higher the number of ducks you purchase, the bigger are your chances of winning the race. Toy duck purchases ends at 3pm on the day of the event.

With cash prizes combined at nearly $3,000, the first-place winner will receive a whopping $2,023; the second-place winner will receive $500; third place gets $200, and $50 goes to the fourth placer.

The Duck Race will not be the only event happening at PIC's lazy river that day. An hour before the Duck Race, at 5pm, a 2-Man Swim Relay race will be taking place at the same location. Entrance fee is $50, and the first place winner will receive PIC's Explorer Membership. The individual acquiring the second place will receive waterpark membership, also at PIC. Registration for the swim relay ends on Feb. 24, 2023. at 12pm.

All proceeds collected from the Duck Race and the 2-Man Swim Relay will be donated to the CNMI Cancer Association.

For more information, contact PIC's Dabin Kim at (670) 234-7976 or SEA Entertainment manager Reymark Castro (670) 237-5174. You can also email Castro at reymark.castro@picsaipan.com. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

CWA starts third edition of WEP while also running EVS program

Tomorrow kick-starts the third edition of the CNMI Women's Association's Women Entrepreneur's Project and the session will be from 2:30pm to 6pm at the CNMI's Women's Affairs Office on Capital Hill.

While the WEP's first cohort was an introduction to the fundamentals of entrepreneurialism and needed resources and the second cohort was mainly about helping women entrepreneurs avail of federal grants, the third edition of the WEP program will help participants locate and troubleshoot certain problems they may face in their businesses, said CWA project director Valentina Rivera.

The cohort, titled Entrepreneurial Sprint, will also help participants find ways that work for them when launching new products, social media, advertising etc.

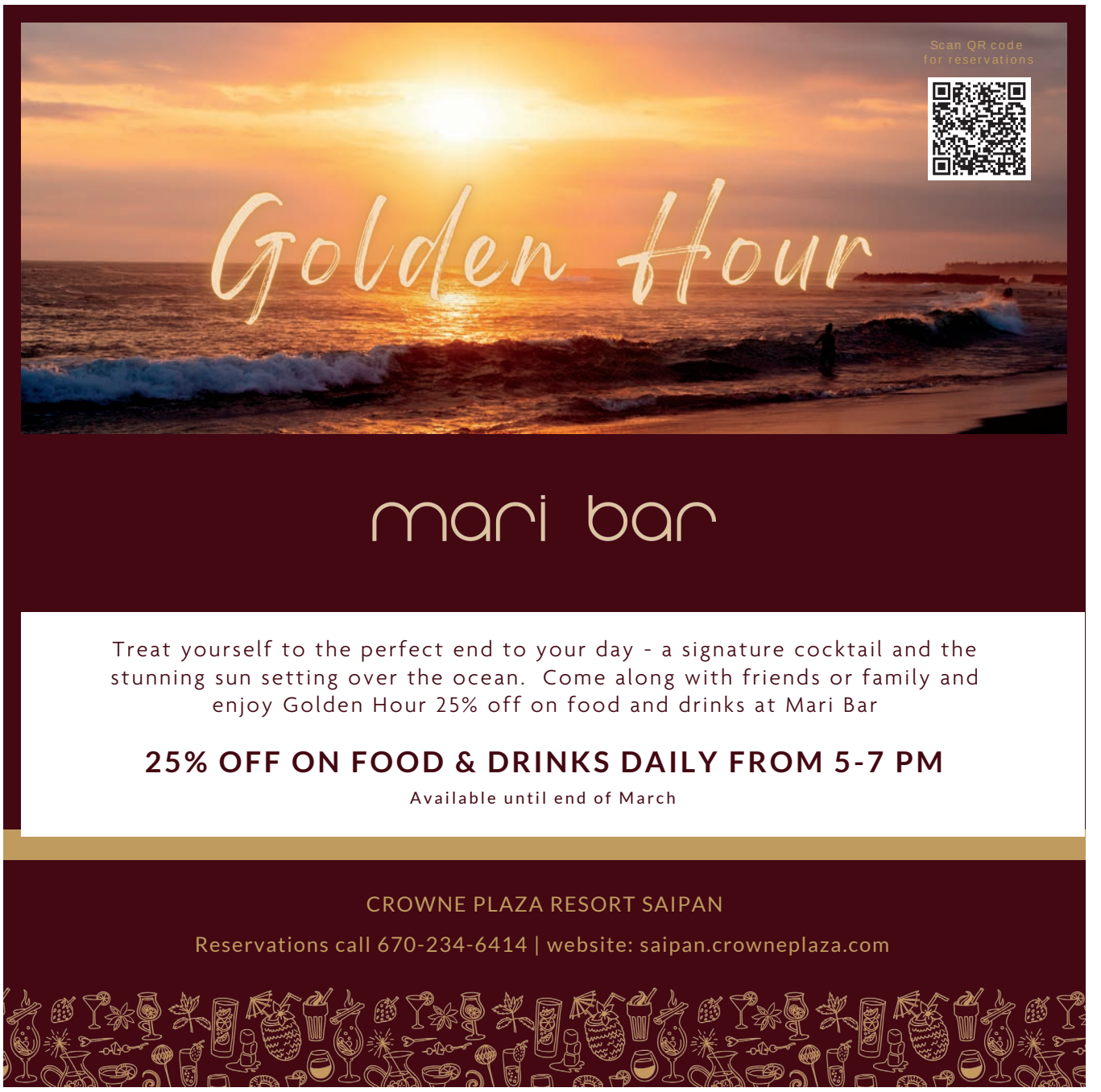
Rivera said the third cohort will last three weeks at five days per week. The first week of sessions is from Feb. 11 until Feb. 15, the second week will be from Feb. 18 through Feb. 22, and the last cohort week will be from Feb. 25 to March 1. Each session lasts three hours daily.

All participants will be divided into a three-member group where each member in a group will take a turn each week to discuss their business situation and formulate a solution, sharing their ideas and advice as a team.

Although there will be some guest speakers in some of the sessions, Rivera explained that this cohort will be a time where women can share their thoughts, ideas, and strengths with others in their group that are facing certain business problems, as well as glean the strengths of others in their team when addressing their own problems. Besides problem solving, this will be another way of demonstrating the women empowerment concept, Rivera said.

Another CWA event running concurrently with the WEP cohort is the Entrepreneur Vendor Spot, which is a way to not only support the organization and its mission, but also provide women entrepreneurs a space where they may promote their products. The Entrepreneur Vendor Spot, which is held weekly around lunchtime, happens on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Those interested in purchasing a spot at the EVS may visit CWA's store featured on ourgoodys.com. Non-members pay a fee of $15 each day they use a spot, and those who have a CWA free membership will only pay $10. CWA's paid members are charged as low as $5. As soon as a spot is purchased it can be reserved. Rivera shared that the EVS is targeted to those around Papago, Tanapag, Kagman, and those who work on Capital Hill. CWA aims to make this event similar to the weekly Saturday market in Susupe.

For inquires visit www.cnmiwomen.org, or call 670-233-8978 or 670-233-9411. You may also email them at cnmiwomen@gmail.com. CWA also has social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube, just search @cnmiwomen. ***(Chrystal Marino)***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PUBLIC HEARING:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Governor in cooperation with the Department of Public Works/Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) will be conducting a public hearing to present the proposed WAP State Plan for Program Year 2023 and is inviting the General Public to attend this important Public Hearing.

The public hearing will be held at the Energy Division office located on Capitol Hill, House No. 1337 on Monday, February 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Individuals who are unable to attend the public hearing in person may submit written comments to the Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House No. 1337, Saipan or by e-mail to cnmienergy@gmail.com or by mail to P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 on or before close of business on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Copies of the Draft State Plan will be made available at the Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House No. 1337 beginning Friday, February 10, 2023.

For more information, you may contact Thelma B. Inos, Energy Director, at 664-4480/81 or you may visit the Energy Division Office on Capitol Hill, Monday to Friday, except holidays, and from 07:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

/s/ Ray Yumul
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HINEKKUNGUK PUPBLIKU:

I Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha gi Ufisinan Gubietnu yan i ko'operasion i Dipattamentun Che'chu' Pupbliku/Dibision Energy gi Prugråman Asistensian Weatherization (WAP) para u makundudukta hinekkunguk pupbliku ni para u maprisenta i manmaproponi na WAP State Plan para i Prugråman i sakkan 2021 yan ha kumbibida i Pupbliku Henerât para u ma'atendi esti na impottântin Hinekkunguk Henerât.

I hinekkunguk pupbliku para u makundukta gi Dibision Energy, giya Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' #1337, gi Lunis, Fibreru 27, 2023 gi oran alas 5:00 gi pupuengi. Todu indibiyuåt siha ni ti sumiña umatendi i hinekkunguk henerât siña muna'halum tinigi' upiñon siha guatu gi Dibision Energy, Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' 1337, Saipan pat i email guatu gi cnmienergy@gmail.com pat na'hånao i kattåm-mu guatu gi P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 gi pat åntis di u mahuchum i ufisina gi , Måttes, Måtso 14, 2023.

Kopia siha gi Draft State Plan para u mana'guaha gi Dibision Energy, Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' 1337 tinituhun gi Betnes, Fibreru 10, 2023.

Para mås imfotmasion, siña un ågang si Thelma B. Inos, Direktot Energy, gi 664-4480/81 pat siña un bisita i Ufisinan Dibision Energy giya Capitol Hill, Lunis asta Betnis, fuera di holidays, yan gi oran alas 07:30 gi egga'an asta alas 04:30 gi dispues di talu'åni.

/s/ Ray N. Yumul
Acting Sekritåriun Public Works

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP:

Bwulasiyol Sów Lemelem Ióll Commonwealth wól Téél Fáluw kka Faluwasch Efáng Marianas fengál me aliilisil Bwulasiyool Public Works/Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) e bwe ayoora eew arongorong reer toulap bwelle e bwe apasa rel pommol WAP State Plan rel Program Year 2023.

Arongorong yeel e bwe fis me rel Energy Division me Capitol Hill, House #1337, wóól Lunnis, Febreero 27, 2023, óttol 5:00 p.m.

Schóókka rese tawe re bwe fiti arong yeel, e mmwel schagh u bwe iischilong mááfiyómw rel Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House # 1337, Seipél: ngáre e-mail ngáli: cnmienergy@gmail.com me ngáre afanga ngáli P.O.Box 500340, Seipél, MP 96950 wóól me ngáre mmwal igha ebwe tittiló ótool angaang wól Metulis, Mótso 14, 2023.

Kkopiyal Draft Plan yeel nge emmwal rebwe bweibwogh me Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House #1337, wóól Bennis, Febreero 10, 2023. Rel kkapasal, e mmwel ów bwe fafingi ló llemwáár ye Thelma B. Inos, Energy Director, rel 664-4480/81 me ngáre igha u bwe mwette ló rel Bwulasiyol Energy Division ye e llo Capitol hill, Luunis mwette ngáli Bennis, saabw holidays, me ótool 07:30 a.m. ngáli 04:30 p.m.

/s/ Ray N. Yumul
Acting Secretary of Public Works

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP23-GOV-42300039

2018 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island Standard State Mitigation Plan Update

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) (collectively, "Commonwealth"), is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to update the 2018 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island (CNMI) Standard State Mitigation Plan (SSMP) in accordance with 44 CFR 201.4 and the requirements of the CNMI.

Proposal procedures shall comply with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, amended by Public Law 15-118, does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be electronically available upon request to rlpangelinan@omb.gov.mp beginning February 03, 2023, or a hard copy may be picked up at the HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be conducted via Zoom on February 28, 2023, at 10 am ChST. The link will be provided at a later date.

Questions regarding this project shall be addressed to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office, Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp. Questions are due no later than 4:30 p.m., ChST, March 07, 2023.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 30 pages in length exclusive of appendices. A consultant that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different prime contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualification of key personnel	25%
2.	Experience in Data Collection, Mapping, Planning and Design,	
3.	processing and producing GIS data	25%
4.	Familiarity with the project site and conditions	25%
5.	Project Approach & Schedule	15%
6.	Cost	10%

Performance time for completion of this project is 180 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP23-GOV-42300039 CNMI SSMP UPDATE. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, March 14, 2023. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. The Director of Procurement Services must receive notices of intent to propose no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to g.cruz@dof.gov.mp.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 14, 2023, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the proposal documents must be received no later than March 23, 2023. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Geraldine T. Cruz, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Free basic ukulele class

Register for a free basic ukulele class at the Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library in San Antonio, Saipan.

Held in collaboration with the Bookmobile Outreach Services and the Technology Mobile Express, ukulele classes are held Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4pm to 5pm. Its instructors are Larry Lee and Kui Lee.

Session dates are on Tuesdays and Wednesday as follows: Feb. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22.

The minimum age requirement is children ages 8 years or older and adults. Students must provide their own ukuleles. Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

Contact the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's at (670) 235-Celina C. Foreman for more information and how to register (670) 235-7315.

This project is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a non-profit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. ***(PR)***

Rally for H.O.P.E Recovery Center is set this afternoon

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A roadside waving and petition signing called Rally for H.O.P.E. is scheduled this afternoon from 3:30pm to 5pm at the Capitol Hill Softball Field adjacent to the CNMI Governor's Office.

This comes soon after it was learned last month that the Hinemlu Ohala Para Enteramenti, or HOPE Recovery Center, might shut down due to budgetary constraints. One of the center's clients, Jun Santos, and his peers in recovery and other supporters are organizing the "Rally for H.O.P.E.," which they made clear is not a Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program, SAAR, sanctioned event.

Santos said the center has helped him and his peers through their journey of recovery and pursuit of a sober and better life.

"The center is a necessity in the community. There are so many people [on] Saipan that are struggling with the disease of addiction and closing down the only residential treatment center here—which can house addicts in a safe environment—is going to hugely impact the community in a negative way," said Santos.

Santos himself has been in recovery since November 2020 but he's had few relapses with alcohol and methamphetamines. He sought help from the center after he felt that he was going to "lose" himself again when he went through a really bad relapse.

"I knew I needed to try something different. I didn't feel like I was strong enough to stay away from the drugs and alcohol if I [were] surrounded by it. I felt like I would've just given in to my addiction again," he recalled.

Santos lived in the center for seven months and completed the recovery program. "It has helped me in a great way to be able to have that residential treatment, to have that kind of environment where we feel safe and secure. We can't just walk out to get our fix and come back in."

He said receiving residential treatment helps addicts in recovery prolong their sobriety rather than trying to stay sober on their own without the help and resources that the center provides.

In addition to the rally and petition signing tomorrow, an online petition is available at https://www.change.org/p/saving-hope. As of press time, it has garnered 750 signatures out of an initial goal of getting 1,000 signatures in all.

Along with this, supporters of the center are actually reaching out to people in person to sign a physical petition to show the importance of their cause.

The deadline for the petition is on Feb. 17 and another rally for the center is scheduled for that day at a more centralized location.

Santos invites the community to come out and support the rally, sign the petition, and honk their cars when they drive by. "We invite the whole community, from anybody who has a family member in recovery, or if you are a person in recovery, or have lost someone you know to addiction, and just want to be there to support the cause, come out and join us."

He also hopes the rally's close proximity to the Governor's Office will show that the community wants their voices to be heard to keep the center open.

HOPE, which is locally funded under the Office of the Governor, has helped prevent about 80% of Drug Court participants from committing crimes again.

The center reopened on March 14, 2022, after a four-month long relocation.

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Scott Dumbauld, center left, chief marketing officer from Individual Assurance Co., and IAC agent Donald C. Barcinas, center right, presented Mount Carmel School with a cash donation of $2,000 last Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, to honor the memory of Martina "Tina" Ogumoro Barcinas from the AlumKnight Class of 1972. This donation was made possible through the assistance of IAC. Others in the photo are, from left, John S. Blanco, MCS business manager; MCS Parent Council secretary Mai Mendola; MCS Parent Council president Tina Crisostimo Tudela; MCS president Frances T. Taimanao; Nenita San Nicolas from IAC; Victoria Deleon Guerrero MCS director of Institutional Development; Filmah Buenaflor, MCS acting principal; and Tobed Smith, MCS school counselor. MCS

CLI offers new program for veterans

Rotary Club of Saipan's officers pose alongside Center for Living Independently in the CNMI's executive director Susan Satur and health education specialist Tiana M. Pellegrino Ranjo after their presentation at Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday. CHRYSTAL MARINO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Center for Living Independently in the CNMI highlighted a new program intended for the Commonwealth's veterans during last Tuesday's presentation at the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

CLI's executive director Susan Satur and health education specialist Tiana M. Pellegrino Ranjo announced the start of the Veteran Directive Care—also known as the Veteran in-Charge program—which aims to benefit the CNMI's veteran population.

Ranjo credits Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) with envisioning the program for the CNMI. "This is [Delegate] Kilili Sablan's dream that he wanted here [on] Saipan, [on] Tinian and [on] Rota," she said

Ranjo said the program is essentially being done in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs out of Hawaii, the Medical Associates of the Pacific clinic, and the Independence Center in Colorado. "Director Sue and I, and our co-workers have been doing extensive training with the Independence Center on how to implement this program out here. …So, it's really a joint progress that we're really excited [about] and we just started this month."

Those interested in being a participant of the VDC will need to get a referral from the Medical Associates of the Pacific clinic, which usually handles veterans-related health matters in the CNMI.

Satur and Ranjo also shared CLI's five core services, which include providing information and referral to participants with disabilities, offering a space where consumers may have peer counseling, independent living skills training, and where individuals may receive and give advocacy, and team leaders in the CLI who have mastered a skill and want to teach others as well. Their fifth service, called their transition service, also works with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation on transitioning consumers out of high school into college or into a career.

Satur said they currently have about 192 consumers, some of whom they serve at home. "We have about 95 that come to the center. Our building is so small that we cannot house everybody at one time, so we have a Monday/Wednesday group, and a Tuesday/Thursday group," Satur said.

CLI also just recently acquired a new facility in Building 1365, and they about ready to move in, with a goal date of moving in this March.

The Center for Living Independently in the CNMI is a non-profit organization helping those with physical disabilities live independently and learn to make their own living, and has been serving the CNMI since 2005. Its mission is to ensure the rights of individuals with disabilities to live independently and fully integrated within the community outside of an institutional setting.

The CLI is located in House #1366 on Capitol Hill. For more information or to make a donation visit clicnmi.org or call 670-322-4303/4.

Rip currents until Sunday night

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through Sunday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east-facing reefs of the Marianas. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

The public is reminded to stay out of the water along east facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

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$23,995
2018 NISSAN FRONTIER SV CREW CAB
STOCK #JN767161, 4X4, 4.0L 6CYL, AUTO
Mileage: 61,933, Color: BLUE

$23,600
2016 TOYOTA SIENNA LE
STOCK # G5695907, FWD, V6, Auto
Est. Mileage: 35,637, Color: WHITE

$23,995
2013 NISSAN X-TERRA PRO-4X
STOCK # DN813073, 4X4, 4.0L 6CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 37,177, Color: GRAY

$24,600
2019 HONDA CIVIC SPORT
STOCK # KE023015, FWD, 4CYL, AUTO,
Est. Mileage: 35148, Color: BLACK

$26,995
2018 FORD MUSTANG CONV.
STOCK # J5182264, RWD, 2.3L 4CYL ECOBOOST
Est. Mileage: 22,536, Color: ORANGE

$27,995
2022 KIA SELTOS LX
STOCK # N7286815, FWD 2.0L 4CYL
Est. Mileage: 4,481, Color: SILVER

$28,995
2020 NISSAN FRONTIER SV CREW CAB
STOCK # LN713719, 4X4, 3.8L 6CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 11,209, Color: SILVER

$33,995
2022 HONDA ACCORD SPORT
STOCK # NA029393, FWD, 1.5T 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 3,824, Color: RED

$34,995
2019 HONDA PASSPORT EX-L
STOCK # KB016284, AWD 3.5L 6CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 12,760, Color: GRAY

CALL FOR DETAILS
2018 FORD TRANSIT 350
STOCK # JKA66847
Est. Mileage: 32,259, Color: WHITE

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FREE 24 **HOUR** BASIC TOWING SERVICE
FREE SHUTTLE RIDES
48 HOUR VEHICLE EXCHANGE

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Refugees want jobs, and the economy wants workers

With a total of 517,000 new jobs created last month and total employment estimates revised up, the country now has the lowest unemployment rate in more than half a century.

The numbers cooled recession fears, and while some economists and policymakers fret that the robust labor gains are going to send us into an inflationary tailspin, inflation indicators have actually been trending positively even as hiring has remained robust. Perhaps some of the conventional wisdom about the need to bludgeon wage and job gains to suppress inflation isn't so common sense after all.

What is common sense is using a pool of available, ready and willing workers to fill a strong labor need. Thousands of asylum-seekers are waiting a statutorily required six months between when they make their applications and when they can be issued work authorization, languishing even as they beg for the opportunity to fill available jobs and support themselves as they wait for their proceedings to play out.

More broadly, hundreds of thousands of refugees around the world want nothing more than to come to the United States and reestablish lives here through hard work and entrepreneurship, both filling and creating jobs and growing the economy into a more prosperous one for the country as a whole. Yet a general lack of urgency from the Biden administration has left admissions low and left people in harm's way instead of the relative safety and prosperity of the U.S.

There are some recent positive signs, like the State Department's launch of a program allowing groups of private citizens to directly sponsor refugees. This should be just one of many initiatives to get the refugee pipeline reestablished. On some matters, it must be Congress to intervene, including undoing the silly wait time for asylum-seekers to receive work authorization and perhaps, at long last, moving to reform employment immigration pathways.

We can do the right thing by those fleeing violence and persecution, and do right by our economy. Win-wins are rare in public policy, and this is one worth taking.

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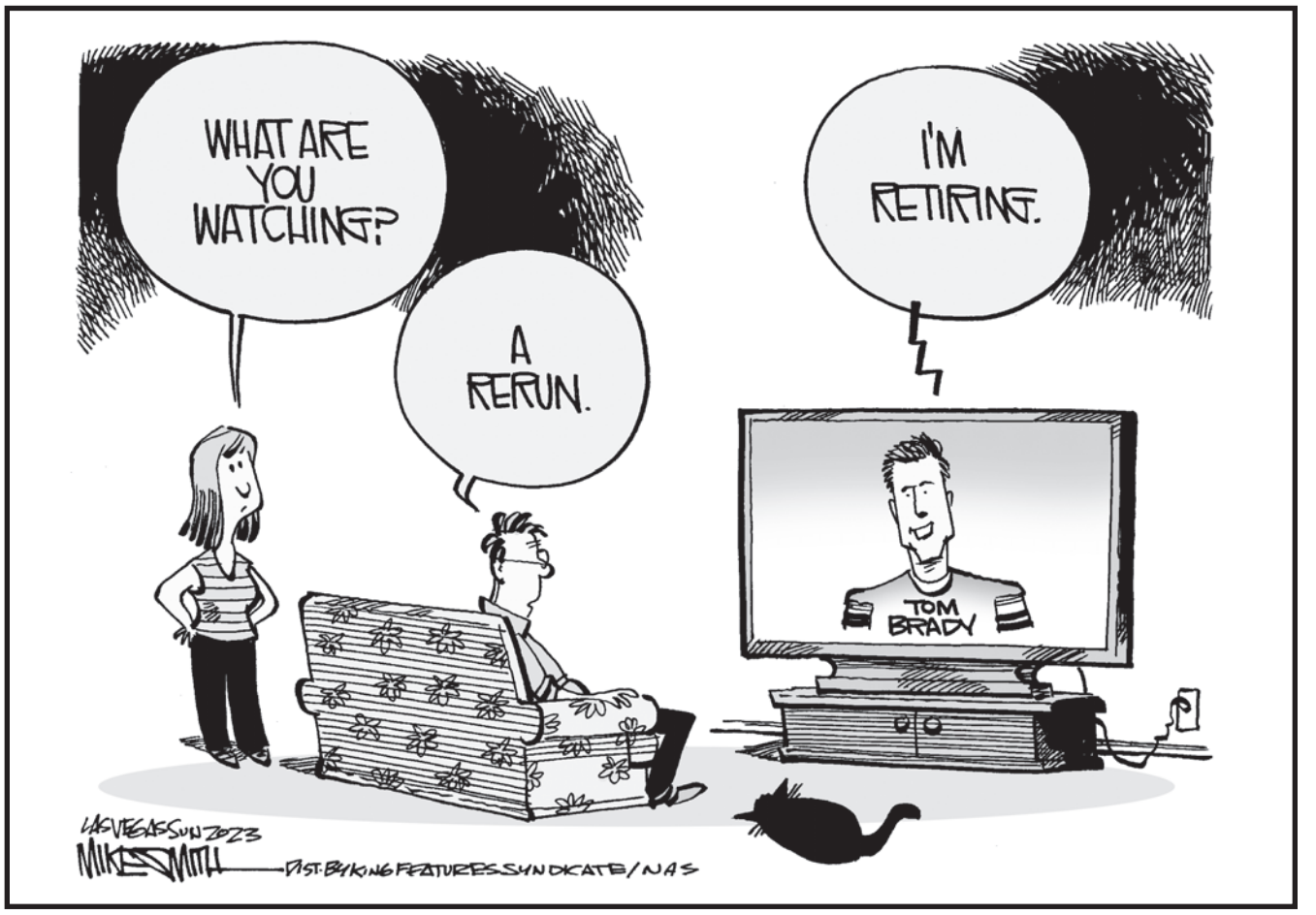


The video of Tyre Nichols' murder is unbearable. But it shows why we need stories of both Black pain—and joy

By CASSANDRA LANE
Los Angeles Times

Cassandra Lane is the author of We Are Bridges: A Memoir *and editor-in-chief of* L.A. Parent.

The murder of Tyre Nichols and the individual and collective reckoning we have all encountered—whether or not to witness the brutal images of his final moments—sent me back to an issue that I've been wrestling with for two decades.

In the fall of 2001, I started writing the seeds of a book project with the intention of examining the multigenerational reverberations of my great-grandfather's lynching. I started writing this story before the #BlackJoy movement, but even back then I faced some resistance.

"Haven't we heard enough race stories?" a friend asked. Besides, he said, "you're so funny. Write something funny."

Even my mother was concerned that I was barking up the wrong tree. "Why not explore Mama's side of the family?" she asked. I wanted to climb the unknown tree on which our ancestor, her father's father—Burt Bridges—was lynched in Mississippi in 1904. I wanted to resurrect him not to sensationalize the horror, or make white people feel guilty, but because I became obsessed with Burt Bridges, the man.

Some of my great-grandmother Mary's last words before she died in 1982 were about how beautiful of a man he was, how in love they were, how white folks lynched him because they thought he was "uppity." Using these morsels she gave us, I attempted to capture some essence of Mary's and Burt's passion, worth and humanity on the page. And in weaving their story with mine, I sought to fill holes in my own heart, my own psyche.

They were more than victims, worth more than the virulence of white supremacy. And so am I.

It took me a long time to finish this work that was both devastating and life-giving. By the time my book was published in the spring of 2021, Black people were tired of what some deem "trauma porn." They were exhausted by the pandemic and the police killing of George Floyd (a trauma record on repeat).

On all social media platforms, I was seeing some version of No more #BlackTrauma stories! and #BlackJoy, #BlackExcellence and #BlackGirlMagic only. These notions were created in opposition to racism—in essence, a trauma response—and I embrace them. There's always some manner of "Black-girl magic" and "Black-boy joy" stirring in my house—in pots and pans, creating and parenting, loving and playing.

I do wonder, though, if calling for a cease and desist of stories that examine historical and present-day trauma could slip easily into the sludge of oppression. Could such a stance be twisted into a distant cousin of campaigns hellbent on squashing any semblance of critical race theory in our kids' classrooms? The erasure of history and truth knows no bounds.

Certainly, it's our prerogative to protect our mental health, to seek living over constant images of death. Which is why when the Memphis Police Department released the video Friday of its police officers chasing, tasing and beating 29-year-old Tyre Nichols, I chose not to watch it. The viral announcement that the video would go public seemed to echo the old newspaper announcements I've read about that advertised public viewing opportunities of the lynching and burning of Black people in the Jim Crow South.

Unable to sleep the night of the video release, I decided to tiptoe around the periphery of what I consider a modern-day lynching—Black cops or not. I watched Memphis City Council Chairman Martavius Jones get so choked up during an interview with CNN anchor Don Lemon that he couldn't speak for long minutes. I watched Nichols' mother, RowVaughn Wells, describe the awful aches she felt in her stomach at the same moment the officers were torturing her son and I thought: What is my trauma fatigue in comparison to this woman's pain? I still have my Black son, though this country makes that feel like a privilege.

Ultimately, I am on the side of Mamie Till-Mobley, who insisted that the world see the monstrosity of what racists had done to her son Emmett Till. I am on the side of filmmakers such as Chinonye Chukwu, director of the movie "Till," and Marissa Jo Cerar, director of the TV series "Women of the Movement." Both works follow Till-Mobley in the aftermath of her son's murder, but also capture the beauty of their subjects and the empowering activism that rose out of tragedy.

I don't want an end to these stories. I want all stories—well-told. I want the joy of who Burt Bridges, George Floyd, Sandra Bland, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile and Tyre Nichols were to shine bright enough to burn this prolonged cycle of lynching.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Taxman takes

MY GLASS CUP

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. and recently ventured into a startup fishing business.

Sharks impose an unavoidable tax on most people who fish for a living. What's worse is their collection times are random and their rates are…well… arbitrary and often exorbitant, to say the least. I guesstimate that at certain times of the year sharks take well over half of my would-be take in any given month. That's not even counting the lost gear that often gets tangled up with the sharks' take-away. I do occasionally get a return in the form of shark meat for dinner with a heaping side of delicious, personal gratification.

Fishing as a means of earning a living is already a pretty tough gig—predators in the water make it even harder. There are plenty of other costs of course—lost time, fuel and the general stress of fighting monsters—and the economic loss particularly for small scale (in my case one-, sometimes two-man) operations is significant. And yes, it is a tax and not a normal cost of doing business because it's compulsory for one (although with some know-how and a few tricks-of-the-trade one can reduce the pay-out) and for another it's unrequited—a bit off-topic, but a lot like unrequited love: maddening and often painful.

As a business venture on the small-scale model that I use (i.e., small boats with one or two handlines in the water at a time), fishing expeditions are a gamble; otherwise, they'd be called catching expeditions. Some days I hit the "jackpot" (relatively speaking, of course) and other days I wonder what in the world was I thinking? "I can be a fisherman," I said. "It'll be fun." The highs and lows of commercial fishing are as sporadic as the weather and water conditions around Saipan—in one second jacked up with adrenaline-infused exhilaration and the next glossed over with foamy doldrums of an arid wasteland. In terms of money, the potential for a big payday is always in play like the pot in a poker game. There is some skill involved for sure, but ultimately still a matter of luck of the draw.

Even when you're lucky enough to hit it big on certain days, there is still the matter of government taxes—the landsharks' tax, if you will. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Business Gross Revenue tax for Agriculture and Fisheries is nicely capped at 1%, but that's just the first bite. Setting up a roadside point of sale and selling as a general business can cost up to 5% of the gross income. Again, that's just what the landsharks take off the top. Other actual costs of doing business (fixed or otherwise) can be prohibitive and, as nice and cordial as some of our government employees can be, the bureaucracy (often in the form of petty quibbles over and long wait times for printed permits and/or licenses) is my least favorite. Time is limited and precious.

I understand the need for taxes. I do. That's what we need to sustain government and we need government to maintain order much in the same way we need sharks to sustain balance in the marine ecosystem. Our society without institutions of education or systems for public safety (for instance) would be in chaos, so I gladly abide in paying my share as required. For the record, I'm talking pennies when compared to bigger companies, but I imagine a penny from my dollar is felt a little more directly than a hundred pennies from the deeper, million-dollar pockets.

On a biblical tangent for today, a story of the widow's mite comes to mind. No I'm not a widow, but I'll stretch and draw the parallel as a single father (for attention, if nothing else because as Chamorro people say, *"puti ti matendi"*—I'm not sure about the spelling, but it basically translates to, "It hurts when I don't get attention"...to touch base on the matter or unrequited love).

For those who don't know the story of the widow's mite: Amidst extravagant offerings by droves of rich people in a temple, a poor lady/widow gave two pieces of money called mites—a relatively small offering as compared to others, but a large one compared to what she has—drawing the attention of Jesus Christ himself who takes note and acknowledges her sacrifice. The general lesson is that it's not the amount of money given that is important, but rather the sacrifice made in the offering and that God sees the sacrifice and "loves a cheerful giver." There's more to it, but that in a nutshell, is the moral of the story.

It's not such a stretch to say that we all appreciate a cheerful giver. Wouldn't it be nice if, for instance, love in all its forms was requited (I keep falling back on this word, so to be clear, I mean it in the context of reciprocating or understanding. The Merriam Webster Online Dictionary defines unrequited as "not reciprocated or returned in kind").

Where was I? Oh, the taxman takes.

The sharks and tax collectors take what they want. Neither thinks to ask me what I'd like to give; in fact, I can only keep what they choose to leave in my hand. There's really no difference in the sharks gorging themselves off the low-hanging or rather hooked, disadvantaged fish on my lines than tax collectors running amok with taxpayers funds. Let me put that another way. The ravenous sharks in our oceans that cherry-pick and eat more than they need off my handlines (because it's easy prey) are of the same ilk as the gluttonous bureaucrats in bloated government who overspend or worse stuff their own pockets with hard-earned, taxpayer money. Given life such as it is for me, I have no choice other than to accept the natural order of things (which apparently means that ocean sharks will eat my catch and the landsharks will do whatever they please with my tax payments), so I do. I respectfully abide by the rules—my sacrifice, so to speak, for the greater good. But, wouldn't it be nice if the ocean sharks would take just a little less each month and the landsharks would be more careful with what they take and use it ONLY for the greater good (in other words, reciprocate or requite with gestures in kind)?

Climate change is fueling extreme weather. How do we make a difference?

By BARBARA WILLARD
Chicago Tribune

Barbara Willard is an associate professor of communication studies at DePaul University, where she teaches environmental rhetoric and politics. She is a Public Voices Fellow with the OpEd Project and a founding board member of the International Environmental Communication Association.

California is digging out from the damage left behind by nine atmospheric rivers that passed in the last few weeks. The storms they created affected almost every region of the state with extreme flooding, massive mountain snowfall, mud slides, landslides and 20 deaths.

This came after 22 years of drought—the worst drought in 1,200 years—adding to the impact of these extreme rainstorms, with the soil too impacted to absorb the 32 trillion gallons of water that fell from the skies over three weeks.

Like a frog that jumps into a pot of lukewarm water and doesn't notice as the water heats up to a boil, humans are experiencing the devastating effects of climate change catastrophe all around us—but failing to act with the urgency the situation demands.

Climate change won't be a sudden apocalypse but a continuous increase in extreme weather events, human casualties, species loss and other calamities. And climate change doesn't just fuel precipitation episodes like the ones California just suffered through. It brings about drought, wildfires, heat waves and other extreme weather events.

In the early 2000s, a new branch of climate change science called extreme event attribution was launched by the National Academy of Sciences, with the goal of tracking the likelihood that our warming planet was making weather events not just more common but also more extreme. It has produced compelling evidence that this is the case.

There is broad scientific consensus that climate change increases water vapor in the atmosphere. This results in more powerful storms as they build strength over warming bodies of water, leading to stronger winds and flooding. These are the Category 4 and 5 hurricanes we experience more often. These storms pack a powerful and deadly punch not just on the coast but also inland as they travel over the country.

For decades, we have been told we would experience a tipping point in climate change. We hear dates like 2050 and 2100 when we will suffer great catastrophes. Icebergs will melt. Manhattan will be submerged under water. The Central Valley of California that supplies 25% of the nation's food will be a desert. We will experience skyrocketing food prices and extreme hunger. The sixth extinction will lead to an immense decrease in biodiversity, causing a loss of natural resources that fuel our capitalist economy.

But climate change is happening now; the cataclysmic scenarios and NASA warnings have already started and will continue to develop. By the time we reach the oft-cited dates of 2050 and 2100, it will be too late.

We are like the creators of a cathedral who may never see it through to its completion. But in this case, it won't be a work of beautiful architecture but a monstrosity that we slowly construct with each increase in carbon dioxide parts per million that we pump into our atmosphere.

This is not to say we aren't working on solutions. We are. We had a big victory in the U.S. in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, with $65 billion allotted for clean energy and grid improvement, $50 billion for climate resilience and weatherization, and $7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging stations. We passed the Inflation Reduction Act with $370 billion in clean energy and climate investments.

This has us moving in the right direction but not fast enough. We've got to ramp up our efforts.

So, what can we do? Should we shift toward a plant-based diet? Buy an electric car? Fly less? Yes, we should do all these things.

But our personal actions are not enough. Even more important is to get political and get engaged. You can become part of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps and spread the word to your community about our current crisis and what we can do. You can help lobby elected officials to pass climate change legislation by joining the Citizens' Climate Lobby. And much of this activism can take place from your own home.

If you are young and want to take to the streets, join the Sunrise Movement, which supports legislation that gets us closer to passage of a Green New Deal. These are the bold actions that will move us away from the danger.

If we are waiting for the apocalypse to happen, we will continue to delay significant action. We march on in the very direction of the nightmare scenarios of which we are warned. We are the frogs in the slowly boiling water. It doesn't have to be this way.

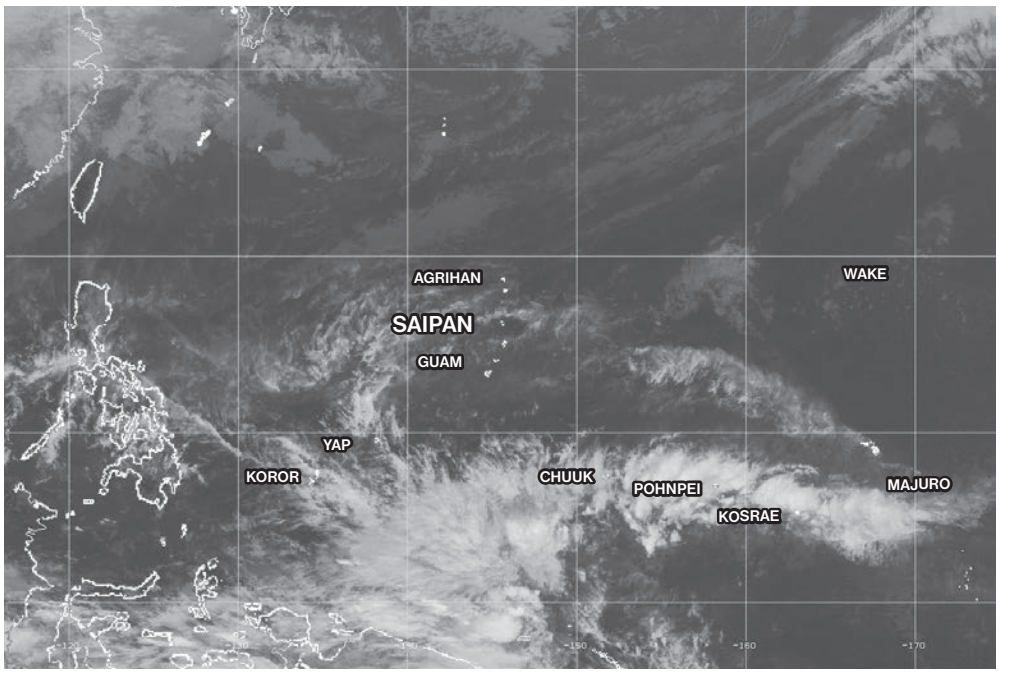
We can shift course. With every legislative action for which you lobby, every phone call you make, every pro-climate change candidate for whom you volunteer, you help us march in a different direction, away from the danger.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers, mainly before noon. Partly sunny	Isolated showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
86º / 77º	86º / 77º	87º / 76º	87º / 74º	87º / 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trades prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate isolated showers making their way across Guam and Rota waters. Buoys indicate near seas are between 7 and 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms/Wind	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Pohnpei	Showers	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:43 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:28 AM	9:54 PM
Saturday	-	10:03 AM	10:43 PM
Sunday	-	10:40 AM	11:35 PM
Monday	-	11:20 AM	-
Tuesday	12:31 AM	12:06 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	73° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	44° / 29°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 66°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	80° / 72°
London	Mostly Cloudy	49° / 40°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 51°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79° / 73°
New York	Cloudy	53° / 50°
Osaka	Rain	48° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	49° / 36°
Busan	Rain	53° / 40°
Rome	Sunny	55° / 30°
Salem	Rain	67° / 50°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	49° / 26°
Tokyo	Rain/Snow	39° / 36°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	66° / 53°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:17 AM	Low Tide	0.10
10:45 AM	High Tide	1.68
5:03 PM	Low Tide	0.61
10:23 PM	High Tide	1.46

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	1, 4, 5, 7
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

McDonald's donates to Salvation Army, Karidat, Rotaract

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan and the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation donate $3,000 to Karidat Social Services. From left, Fidel Palacios, Marissa Obtinalla, Cinderella Bernal, Marcia E. Ayuyu, Jessa Mae De Jesus, Aria Materum, and Luis Iguel Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan and the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation donate $3,000 to the Salvation Army. Shown from left, Cinderella Bernal, Marissa Obtinalla, Fidel Palacios, Jessa Mae De Jesus, Marcia E. Ayuyu, and Wayne Gillespie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan and the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation donate $3,000 to the Rotaract Club of Saipan. From left, Richard Baleares, Marcia E. Ayuyu, and Arriane Antonio.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, in partnership with the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation, held the 2nd Annual McDonald's of Guam and Saipan Golf Classic on Dec. 3, 2022, and raised over $30,000.

That allowed the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation to donate to Make-A-Wish in Guam and to the Salvation Army and Karidat on Saipan. The Rotaract Club of Saipan has also benefited, with the foundation also donating to the group.

"All three organizations greatly appreciate the donations and have plans on bettering the community. The Rotaract Club of Saipan has brought in volunteers during the 2nd Annual Golf Classic and The Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation is very grateful for the support of the volunteers and have donated to Rotaract as well," the foundation said in a statement.

Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro said the Karidat board of directors "and I are honored that you chose Karidat to receive $3,000 from the McDonald's Charity Golf Tournament. …Karidat plans to use the proceeds from the donation to fill the gaps in our unfunded client-needs category. Unfunded client-needs encompass many things, from helping a [domestic abuse] survivor take back her name and get a new passport, emergency rental assistance for eligible families, or by restocking the Karidat food pantry in-between donations of canned food from the community. These are but a few examples of the kinds of requests for help our case workers hear from those seeking assistance from Karidat. We are ever so grateful for your support in these difficult times."

Karidat is the social services arm of the Catholic Church in the CNMI.

Richard Enrico Baleares of the Rotaract Club of Saipan said they are grateful and appreciative of everything McDonald's has done. "As we are striving to improve, we have many upcoming events that will bring our young community together such as New Generation, hosting another gaming tournament, and Self Care Professional Development. We want to bring awareness to Rotaract because of the safe space it creates for people and you get to develop everlasting friendships and skills."

The Rotaract Club of Saipan is a community service organization started in 2014 focused on bringing together people ages 18 and older. Its parent organization is the Rotary Club of Saipan.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned by Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years in Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the islands' largest employers. ***(PR)***

ROBERT T. TORRES
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Telephone: (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Bernadita T. Seman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CATALINA T. SEMAN, Decedent.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0016 NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS DATE: March 2, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: Honorable Joseph N. Camacho

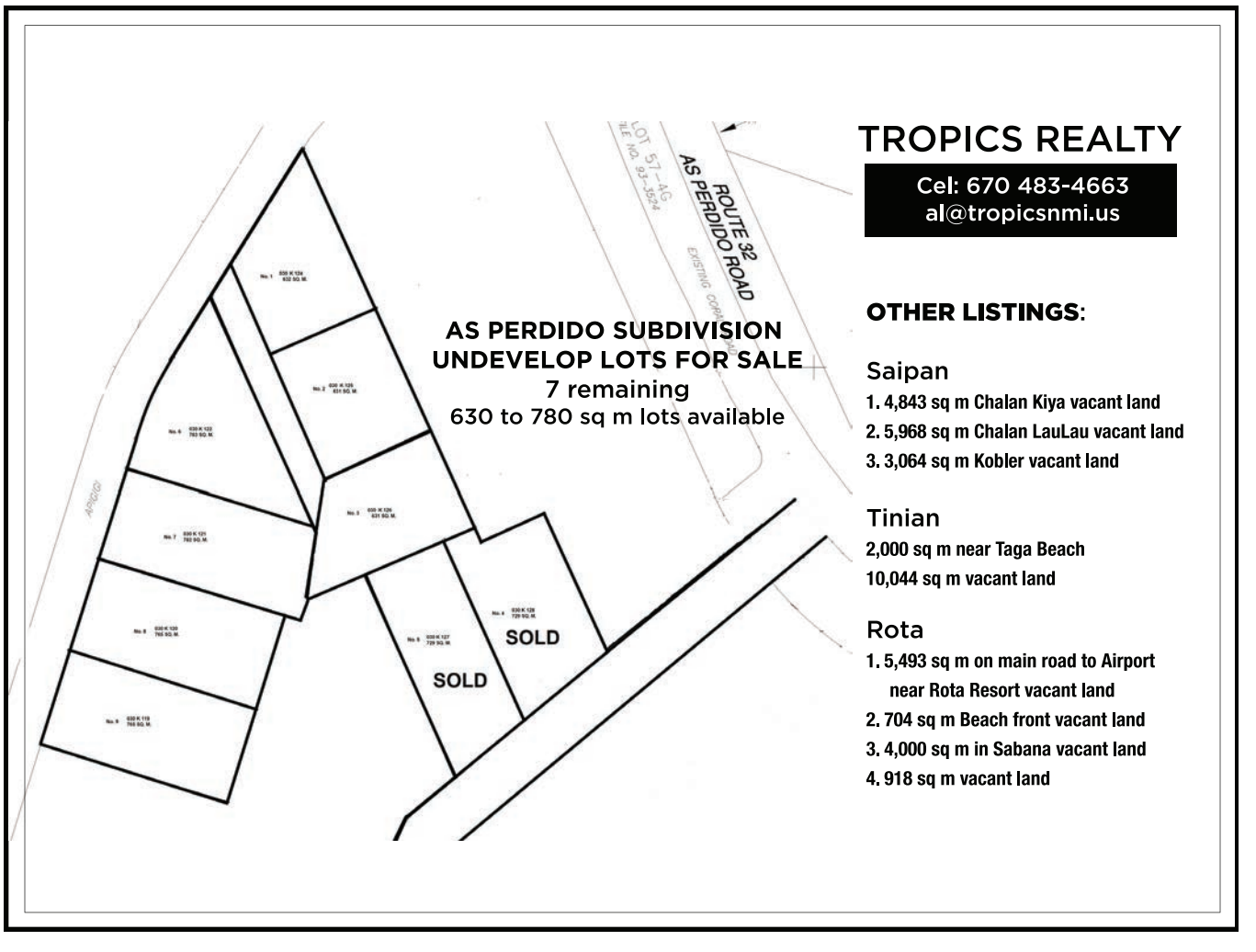
TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE CATALINA T. SEMAN OR HER ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **BERNADITA T. SEMAN** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue a Verified Petition to Admit Estate into Probate and Appointment of Administratrix for the Estate of Catalina T. Seman the decedent. The proposed Administratrix is Bernadita T. Seman. The Attorney for the Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law**, at the address above indicated.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court


TROPICS REALTY
Cel: 670 483-4663
al@tropicsnmi.us
AS PERDIDO SUBDIVISION
UNDEVELOP LOTS FOR SALE
7 remaining
630 to 780 sq m lots available
ROUTE 32
AS PERDIDO ROAD
SOLD
SOLD
OTHER LISTINGS:
Saipan
1. 4,843 sq m Chalan Kiya vacant land
2. 5,968 sq m Chalan LauLau vacant land
3. 3,064 sq m Kobler vacant land
Tinian
2,000 sq m near Taga Beach
10,044 sq m vacant land
Rota
1. 5,493 sq m on main road to Airport near Rota Resort vacant land
2. 704 sq m Beach front vacant land
3. 4,000 sq m in Sabana vacant land
4. 918 sq m vacant land

Palacios is named MCS AlumKnight of the Year

The AlumKnight Association of Mount Carmel School resumed its "Night with the Knights" in full force last Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, by handing out several awards that included recognizing Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as its AlumKnight of the Year.

The occasion, which is a major fundraiser for Mount Carmel School, was also highlighted by the announcement of the Class of the Year, Millennial Falcon of the Year, Parents of the Year, and the Legacy Teacher of the Year awardees.

After two years of suspending the annual event due to the pandemic, the AlumKnight Association helped celebrate the school's 70th anniversary and concluded the weeklong celebration of Catholic Schools Week. The event was held at Saipan World Resort's Taga Ballroom.

As this year's AlumKnight of the Year, Palaciosm who is from the AlumKnight Class of 1974, was recognized for exemplifying the qualities desired of such an awardee since graduating from Mount Carmel School. "In his professional capacity, Gov. Palacios has served the CNMI community and government for more than 20 years cumulatively. He first dedicated much of his life to preserving and protecting the CNMI's natural resources through the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources. As an elected official, Gov. Palacios has also helped pass legislation that protects the environment, invest in the CNMI's economy, and support education. Today, he is also the only elected official that has served as the House of Representatives speaker, Senate president, lieutenant governor, and now governor of the CNMI," the recognition notes.

"I would like to thank Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association for choosing me as AlumKnight of the Year for 2022, and I am truly humbled that I was chosen out of many of my fellow distinguished AlumKnights," said Palacios. "Although it's been many years since I graduated, I still live by the vision statement of my alma mater: to be guided by human and Christian values to help make the world a better place. To me, it is also a reminder for myself as governor to continue to guide our Commonwealth to make it a better place."

The AlumKnight Class of the Year was awarded to the Class of 1990. Beyond their contributions as leaders and productive citizens, Mount Carmel School's Class of 1990 continues to invest in the success of currents Knights.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is presented the AlumKnight of the Year award during Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association's "Night with the Knights" event on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Taga Ballroom. MCS

Since 2017, the Mount Carmel School Class of 1990 facilitated a scholarship program for a deserving Mount Carmel School senior who has successfully gained admission to a postsecondary institution. The Class of 1990 has also contributed scholarship donations to deserving student-athletes who would like to attend Mount Carmel School.

Class of 1990 AlumKnight Donna Flores said, "Mount Carmel School brought us together and our faith continues to keep us together. For that we are forever grateful."

The 2022 Millennial Falcon of the Year award was presented to 2017 AlumKnight Thomas Manglona II. This year's recipient exceeds the expectations of this award. Earning his bachelor's degree from the University of California Berkeley and his master's from Stanford University, Manglona has dedicated his time and service to journalism to tell the unique and complex stories of the people in the Pacific region. In his professional career, Manglona has already gained experience working with ABC7 News, co-founding Oceania Connects, and served as the executive director of CALTV at UCBerkeley. Presently, Manglona serves as KUAM's regional correspondent for the CNMI.

"Mount Carmel School gave me opportunities to thrive and learn as a student, which laid a strong foundation for me to pursue my dreams and higher education. I'm just one of many AlumKnights giving back," he said.

The 2022 Parents of the Year award was presented to Richard P. Kautz II and Regina Kautz. Beyond their support as long-time parents of Knights and AlumKnights of Mount Carmel School, the Kautz family has always supported Catholic education.

As devout Catholics, the Kautz couple instilled Catholic values, having each of their children serve as altar servers during their children's youth, attend Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center and Mount Carmel School. In addition to their support of Catholic education, their family company, Kautz Glass, has continued to support school fundraisers as old as the Royal Court.

As part of their community outreach, the Kautz family have supported non-profit organizations that help strengthen the CNMI's workforce. Along with their dedication to the Church, Rick and Regina Kautz have remained strong supporters of the school and active members in the community.

The 2022 Legacy Teacher of the Year award was presented to long-time educator and 1991 AlumKnight Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, otherwise known as Dr. G. Beyond serving as the previous president of the school, Deleon Guerrero is a graduate of MCS, a former teacher, club advisor, vice principal, principal, and president of Mount Carmel School and dedicated more than 20 of his professional career giving back to MCS. During his time at MCS, Deleon Guerrero introduced and led college-preparatory programs and initiatives that continue to help Mount Carmel School and its students today.

"As an AlumKnight who learned so much from so many great teachers and mentors, I am humbled to join the ranks of other outstanding legacy teachers who have cultivated minds and hearts to see with Christ's eyes," said Deleon Guerrero.

Mount Carmel School president Frances Taimanao shared her profound appreciation for all AlumKnights and their continued support of MCS. "AlumKnights play a crucial role in the success of our beloved institution. From our team at MCS, thank you for joining us in the celebration of Catholic Schools Week but, more importantly, in the celebration the school's 70th anniversary. Please continue to support our school by reaching out, giving back, and remaining Knight Strong."

"Night with the Knights" is intended to raise much needed funds for MCS and bring together the school's AlumKnight community. The event is also an opportunity for the association to recognize AlumKnights who continue to embody the missions and vision of Mount Carmel School as active members of the local community and beyond. For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.

(Saipan Tribune)

Dr. Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero is presented the Legacy Teacher of the Year award during Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association's "Night with the Knights" event on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Taga Ballroom. MCS

Richard P. Kautz II and Regina Kautz are presented the Parents of the Year award during Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association's "Night with the Knights" event on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Taga Ballroom. MCS

Thomas Lee A. Manglona II is presented the Millennial Falcon of the Year award during Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association's "Night with the Knights" event on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Taga Ballroom. MCS

The AlumKnight Class of 1990 is presented the Class of the Year award during Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association's "Night with the Knights" event on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Taga Ballroom. MCS

Business

TO IMPROVE MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN MARIANAS

Docomo Pacific makes significant investment

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, the regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, has completed a multi-million dollar mobile network investment, enhancing the overall customer experience.

Docomo Pacific customers throughout the islands can experience faster mobile speeds, improved reliability, and greater coverage thanks to numerous network upgrades recently completed. This project fortifies 4G LTE connectivity which carries the majority of the mobile traffic on Guam and the CNMI.

Boss

"While we are focused on technology leadership and expanding our high speed 5G network, we continue to enhance our extensive 4G LTE network. The majority of mobile phone users have 4G LTE enabled phones and continue to connect using 4G LTE. These upgrades significantly improve the connection speeds, allowing us to maintain an excellent mobile experience while providing for the growing demands from data-heavy applications. The Docomo Pacific network uses multiple technologies aimed at providing you with a reliable network. We have an exciting roll-out of network services planned this year and fortifying the backbone of mobile connectivity within the Marianas was an essential step," said Docomo Pacific CEO Roderick Boss.

For the past 20 years, Docomo Pacific has consistently delivered the latest in mobile network technology in the Marianas. Docomo Pacific has continued to act on its pledge to advance its mobile network for a better customer experience. Here are some notable network milestones:

■ Guam's first telecommunications service provider to introduce the fastest 3G Network.

■ Attained the Global Wireless Solutions (GWS) OneScore award for ranking the most reliable mobile network on the island using independent testing.

■ Docomo Pacific completed the construction of the 183-mile ATISA submarine fiber optic cable system connecting Guam to the CNMI. ATISA was the first new undersea cable in nearly twenty years connecting Guam and the CNMI. ATISA made it possible for the people of the CNMI to experience the same world-class products and services already available to customers in Guam. Docomo Pacific invested over $16 million for the cable and an additional $9 million to modernize and expand the CNMI fixed and mobile networks to include 4G LTE.

■ In 2019, Docomo Pacific was the first telecommunications service provider to launch fixed 5G in the Marianas with Mobile 5G launched in 2020.

From how you conduct business to how you stream, download and upload videos, Docomo Pacific keeps its promise to be at the forefront of changing how our customers live, work, and play. To learn more about our network updates, visit our website at www.docomopacific.com/about-us/network.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Docomo Pacific is also a six-time winner of Best of The Pacific. It is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

Hyatt to put super in Super Bowl watch party

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hyatt Regency Saipan's Super Bowl LVI watch party last year drew around 90 football fans.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hyatt Regency Saipan has you covered this Monday when the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles battle for gridiron supremacy in Super Bowl LVII.

While not everyone is fortunate enough to watch the big game live at the State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, the CNMI's first brand hotel is making sure to give island American football fans the next best thing.

Hyatt Marketing & Communications manager Maria Bea O'Malley said thanks to its yearslong partnership with MARPAC and Bud Light, they will deliver a Super Bowl watch party to remember this Monday, Feb. 13, at the Garapan landmark.

First with the boatload of prizes that await lucky watch partygoers.

"Since the Super Bowl watch party at Hyatt Regency Saipan is in collaboration with Bud Light, raffle prizes abound the Super Bowl LVII watch party."

She added that while Bud Light will definitely have cool prizes like they always do every year, Hyatt will have six exciting raffle prizes.

These include a complimentary one-night stay at a Regency Club Room with Regency Club Lounge Access, complimentary one-year Club At The Hyatt membership, two draws for one complimentary Sunday brunch for two at Giovanni's/Kili Café & Terrace, and two draws of one complimentary dinner buffet for two at Kili Café & Terrace (Marianas/seafood BBQ).

Super-size screen projectors will be all over Hyatt's cavernous ballroom to make sure the crowd doesn't miss a second of football action as well as the much anticipated Super Bowl halftime show—and don't forget the witty commercials.

"The games will be shown on big screen projectors from both sides of the Regency Ballroom so everyone, no matter where seated, will have a good view of the game," said O'Malley.

Hyatt's breakfast buffet spread is also nothing to sneeze at during the watch party with bacon, eggs, fried rice, among others in the menu.

"We check all the boxes in giving football or non-football fans a great Super Bowl party. To start, the ticket is only $30 and this includes awesome game day food starting with breakfast buffet, a nacho station, lunch buffet, and one beer—a choice of Budweiser, Bud Light, or Michelob Ultra 2. All throughout the game, beer in buckets and solos will be available," added O'Malley.

For those pining for a game while watching The Game, the watch party will also have Super Bowl squares, which quickly has become a local favorite for those watching the Super Bowl.

For more information or to reserve seats for Hyatt's Super Bowl LVII watch party, call (670) 234-1234 ext. 126. Tickets can also be purchased at the Hyatt frontdesk. Doors open at 8am.

Twitter scrambles to fix meltdown as many unable to tweet

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Many Twitter users found themselves unable to tweet, follow accounts or access their direct messages on Wednesday as the Elon Musk-owned platform experienced a slew of widespread technical problems.

"Twitter may not be working as expected for some of you. Sorry for the trouble. We're aware and working to get this fixed," the company tweeted from its "support" account.

Further details were unavailable Wednesday and an email seeking comment from the company's press account went unanswered. Twitter has dissolved its media relations team.

Users first noticed the problem when they tried to send tweets and received a message saying they had reached their "tweet limit."

While Twitter has for years limited the number of tweets an account can send, it is 2,400 per day—or 100 an hour—far more than most regular, human-run accounts send on the platform.

Users also had trouble when they tried to follow another Twitter user, getting a message "You are unable to follow more people at this time" with a link to the company's policy on follow limits.

Twitter's long-standing limit on how many accounts a single user can follow in a single day is 400 — again, more than a regular Twitter user would generally reach on any given day.

It is not clear what caused Wednesday's meltdown, but Twitter engineers and experts have been warning that the platform is at an increased risk of fraying since Musk fired most of the people who worked on keeping it running.

Already in November, engineers who left Twitter described for The Associated Press why they expect considerable unpleasantness for Twitter's more than 230 million users now that well over two-thirds of the San Francisco-based company's pre-Musk core services engineers are apparently gone.

While they don't anticipate near-term collapse, the engineers said Twitter could get very rough at the edges—especially if Musk makes major changes without much off-platform testing.

One Twitter engineer, who had worked in core services, told the AP in November that engineering team clusters were down from about 15 people pre-Musk—not including team leaders, who were all laid off—to three or four before even more resignations.

Then more institutional knowledge that can't be replaced overnight walked out the door.

"Everything could break," the programmer said.

Nation

Focused on 2024, Biden sees opportunity in GOP-held Florida

WASHINGTON (AP)—With an eye toward the 2024 campaign, President Joe Biden on Thursday ventures to Florida, a state defined by its growing retiree population and status as the unofficial headquarters of the modern-day Republican Party.

The president sees a chance to use Social Security and Medicare to drive a wedge between GOP lawmakers and their base of older voters who rely on these government programs for income and health insurance. Biden is trying to lay the groundwork for an expected reelection campaign announcement this spring.

After delivering his State of the Union address on Tuesday, Biden on Wednesday went to Wisconsin, another political battleground, where he said he would block any attempts to slash Social Security and Medicare benefits.

"All of you have been paying into the system every single paycheck you've had since you started working," Biden said. "These benefits belong to you, the American worker. You earned it. And I will not allow anyone to cut them. Not today, not tomorrow, not ever, period."

AP

President Joe Biden waves before boarding Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House, Feb. 8, 2023, in Washington.

Leading Republican lawmakers insist that spending cuts to Social Security and Medicare are off the table with regard to reaching a deal to increase the government's legal borrowing authority. But enough prominent Republicans have broached the subject that Biden sees a political opportunity.

During the State of the Union address, GOP lawmakers jeered when Biden referenced a proposal by Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., to require that the programs be reauthorized every five years. The president seized on the impromptu moment, urging Republicans and Democrats alike to pledge to avoid cuts to the income and health insurance programs.

"Let's stand up for seniors," Biden said as most of those in the chamber took to their feet to applaud, knowing the dangers of being on the wrong side of an aging electorate that values these programs.

For his part, Scott said the president has misrepresented his policy ideas. He said he only wants programs up for congressional renewal every five years, which he believes is different from spending cuts to Social Security or Medicare. "They lie about it," Scott said in a written statement about how the administration has described his plan.

It's a delicate moment for Social Security and Medicare, programs that economists say will drive the national debt to unprecedented highs over the next few decades. The Social Security trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits starting in 2035, prompting some Republican lawmakers to say changes will have to be made to sustain payments.

But any proposed changes can come across as kryptonite to voters, who want their benefits preserved rather than cut. That's especially true in Republican-held Florida, where Census figures show that nearly a third of adults are older than 62.

Despite its longtime reputation as the nation's premier swing state, Florida trended toward the GOP in recent years before lurching sharply to the right last fall. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis won reelection by a staggering 19 percentage points in November, even carrying the longtime Democratic stronghold of Miami-Dade County.

By this summer, Florida is expected to be the staging ground for at least two top-tier presidential campaigns. Former President Donald Trump launched his 2024 bid nearly three months ago from his Palm Beach estate, and DeSantis is likely to join him in the coming months. Scott, believed to be the wealthiest member of the Senate, also has presidential aspirations.

Republicans have flocked to the state in recent years as well, describing it as "the free state of Florida" in a nod to DeSantis' fierce resistance to pandemic-related mandates and "woke" policies on race and gender.

At a news conference Wednesday, DeSantis talked up Florida's economy and leaned into cultural divisions while flanked by a row of gas stoves. Federal officials recently raised health concerns about the popular appliances.

"They are trying to take away your gas stove," DeSantis said. "It shows they are coming for any little thing in your life."

Multiple administration officials have said they are not banning gas stoves, with White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre saying last month, "The president does not support banning gas stoves."

ACROSS THE NATION

Tyre Nichols documents: Officer never explained stop to him

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)—The officer who pulled Tyre Nichols from his car before police fatally beat him never explained why he was being stopped, newly released documents show, and emerging reports from Memphis residents suggest that was common. The Memphis Police Department blasted Demetrius Haley and four other officers as "blatantly unprofessional" and asked that they be stripped of the ability to work as police for their role in the Jan. 7 beating, according to documents released Tuesday by the Tennessee Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. They also include revelations that Haley took photographs of Nichols as he lay propped against a police car, then sent the photos to other officers and a female acquaintance. Nichols died three days later — the latest police killing to prompt nationwide protests and an intense public conversation about how police treat Black residents. Yet what led to it all remains a mystery.

Fiery Ohio derailment raises railroad safety questions

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The fiery derailment of a train carrying toxic chemicals when it went off the tracks—sending a huge plume of smoke in the air and forcing residents of a small Ohio town to evacuate—has highlighted the potentially disastrous consequences of train accidents and raised questions about railroad safety. The railroad industry is generally regarded as the safest option for most goods and federal data show accidents involving hazardous materials are exceedingly rare. But with rails crossing through the heart of nearly every city and town nationwide, even one hazardous materials accident could be disastrous, especially in a populated area. Rail unions believe the industry has gotten riskier in recent years after widespread job cuts left workers spread thin. "It raises all kinds of questions," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine told "Fox & Friends" this week when he was asked whether hazardous materials are too dangerous to transport by rail."We've seen it up close and personal the last few days," DeWine said. "This is a big, big deal."

Heads may roll in Oregon agency due to love for rare bourbon

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—A thirst for rare bottles of bourbon appears set to cost the executive director and other top officials of Oregon's liquor and marijuana regulating agency their jobs. An internal investigation by the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, obtained by The Associated Press via a public records request Wednesday, concluded that Executive Director Steve Marks and five other agency officials had diverted sought-after bourbons, including Pappy Van Winkle's 23-year-old whiskey, for their personal use. The officials were paying for the whiskey, which can cost thousands of dollars a bottle, but they had used their knowledge and connections at the commission to obtain them, and consequently deprived members of the public of the spendy booze, the investigation said. And that violated Oregon statutes, including one that prohibits public officials from using confidential information for personal gain, the commission's investigation said.

Biden warns of GOP plans for Medicare, Social Security cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—When President Joe Biden suggested that Republicans want to slash Medicare and Social Security, the GOP howls of protest during his State of the Union address showcased a striking apparent turnaround for the party that built a brand for years trying to do just that.

Biden is not about to let Republicans off easily and forget that history.

The record ranges from President George W. Bush's ideas about privatizing Social Security to House Speaker Paul Ryan's sweeping Medicare overhaul plan to current Sen. Rick Scott's idea of allowing those and other federal programs to "sunset."

As budget negotiations move ahead, expect the long history of GOP efforts to slash the popular entitlement programs for seniors to remain a politically powerful weapon the White House intends to wield.

"They sure didn't like me calling them on it," Biden said Wednesday about his address that drew heckling from Republicans the night before.

He headed to political battleground Wisconsin, home of Republican Sen. Ron Johnson, who has proposed forcing Congress to authorize spending for Social Security every year.

Speaking at a union training facility in DeForest, Biden pulled out a copy of Scott's campaign proposals and quoted Johnson as well as Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah to warn that Republicans would target Social Security and Medicare.

Referring to the loud GOP objections at the State of the Union, he said, "When I called them out on it last night, it sounded like they agreed to take these cuts off the table."

"Well, I sure hope that's true," he said. "I'll believe it when I see it."

The political shift among Republicans is happening in real time, helping set the parameters for the budget negotiations as Biden and Congress try to come up with a plan for raising the nation's debt limit by a summer deadline.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has insisted that cuts to Medicare and Social Security are "off the table" —and many House and Senate Republicans vehemently agreed during Biden's State of the Union address, some shouting "liar!" as he suggested they were proposing reductions.

But it's unclear what Republicans will demand instead of entitlement cuts as they leverage the upcoming negotiations to extract federal spending reductions. They say they want to put the government on a path toward a balanced budget, but that's a daunting if not impossible challenge without painful cuts elsewhere—in defense or other domestic accounts that Washington has been unable to make.

Johnson accused the president of "lying" about the senator's approach. "I want to save these programs," Johnson said in a statement Wednesday. "We need a process to prioritize spending and decease our deficits."

The White House has insisted that Republicans make their budget plans public for Americans to judge for themselves. That hasn't happened yet.

World

US general to aggressors: Allies are battle-ready in Asia

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—American forces and their allies in Asia are ready for battle after years of joint combat exercises, a United States general said Wednesday, adding that Russia's setbacks in Ukraine should serve as a warning to potential Asian aggressors like China and North Korea.

U.S. treaty allies like the Philippines, Japan and Australia, among others, "have shown that they will band together, that they will not stand for aggression from these nations that have decided they want to change the world order out here," Maj. Gen. Joseph Ryan said.

Although Asia has no counterpart to NATO, the 30-nation military alliance whose mostly European members vow to defend each other against external attacks, a network of U.S. treaty alliances and defense partnerships upholding the international order provides a regional safeguard, he said.

"I'm personally very buoyed by what I see by our allies and partners in this region and the way we've come together in response to aggression by the PRC, by North Korea to say, 'We will not let that stand,'" Ryan told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday, using the acronym for China's official name, the People's Republic of China.

Ryan, Commanding General of the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division based in Hawaii, is in Manila partly for talks with Philippine counterparts ahead of two annual largescale combat exercises that would include live-fire exercises and ground, sea and air assault maneuvers involving thousands of U.S. and Filipino troops in March and April.

The Philippines, America's oldest treaty ally in Asia that used to host the largest U.S. naval and air force bases outside the American mainland, has allowed larger numbers of visiting U.S. forces to stay in rotating batches and preposition weapons and combat equipment in at least nine Philippine military camps under a 2014 defense pact. The Philppine decision to allow a broader American military presence was announced during a visit last week to Manila by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

In the broader Asia-Pacific region, Washington has reinforced an arc of alliances to counter what it says are threats posed by an increasingly belligerent China and North Korea.

China has frowned on combat exercises involving the Americans in coastal areas facing the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety, and has accused Washington of meddling in Asian disputes and dangerously militarizing the region by regularly deploying U.S. Navy warships and jet fighters.

More recent venues of largescale exercises by American and Filipino forces included coastal Philippine provinces close to the disputed South China Sea, where China has taken increasingly assertive actions to cement its territorial claims, and in the northern Luzon region, which lies across a narrow sea border from Taiwan.

Combat-readiness exercises hopefully would make potential aggressors think twice, Ryan said.

The U.S. and the Philippines have agreed to hold about 500 small and major combat exercises in 2023 and expand annual military drills following disruptions caused by two years of coronavirus lockdowns, according to Philippine military officials.

"That does provide some deterrent effect against an adversary in the region, who would look at that and say, 'I don't want to take a step that may cause a government, a politician, to decide to go because I don't know that I can win if I've got to face that trained, ready force,'" Ryan said.

Zelenskyy seeks weaponry in surprise trips to London, Paris

PARIS (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought Western support for his country in surprise visits to Britain and France on Wednesday, pushing for fighter jets to battle Russian invaders in a dramatic speech to the U.K. Parliament, and then flying to Paris to meet the French and German leaders over dinner at the Elysee Palace.

On Thursday, Zelenskyy will join EU leaders at a summit in Brussels, which German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described as a "signal of European solidarity and community."

Zelenskyy's European tour and pleas for more advanced weapons came as Ukraine braces for an expected Russian offensive and hatches its own plans to retake land held by Moscow's forces. Western support has been key to Kyiv's surprisingly stiff defense, and the two sides are engaged in grinding battles.

Zelenskyy thanked the British people for their support since "Day One" of Moscow's invasion nearly a year ago, as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said fighter jets were "part of the conversation" about aid to Ukraine.

"Nothing is off the table," he said at an evening news conference at a British army base. "We must arm Ukraine in the short term, but we must bolster Ukraine for the long term."

Zelenskyy said Ukraine needs all kinds of supplies, not just planes, but also ammunition and long-range missiles

"Without this, there would be stagnation which will not bring to anything good," he said, calling his visit to Britain "very fruitful."

Then it was off to Paris for dinner with French President Emmanuel Macron and Scholz, the German chancellor.

Zelenskyy was greeted Wednesday night on the steps of the Elysee Palace with a friendly embrace by Macron, and then all three leaders headed inside. The visit marks a turnaround in Zelenskyy's relations toward France and Germany, which earlier in the war were viewed by many in Ukraine as not doing enough to help.

"Ukraine can count on France, its European partners and allies to win the war. Russia cannot and must not win," Macron said before their working dinner. Macron's office put out a statement confirming that Zelenskyy would attend Thursday's summit in Brussels, where EU leaders will pledge their support for the Ukrainian people.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
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TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of February 10, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Joaquina Agulto	11/14/2022 APC2022-0002	Construction of a Single Story, 2-Bedroom Residential House	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Approved* 1/30/2023
2. Let's Go Tour Company dba Sea-Touch	12/28/2022 APC2022-0016	Sandbar Tours Pontoon Boat and Floating Cabana Operations	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 2/03/2023
3. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	12/29/2022 CRM-MD2022-0005	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
4. Let's Go Tour Company dba Sea-Touch	01/10/2023 APC2022-0016	Kayak & Paddleboard	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
5. Westlake Motor, LLC	01/11/2023 APC2023-0019	Westlake Motor, LLC Rental Car Facility	San Roque Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Under Review*
6. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	01/24/2023 CRM-MD2023-0007	In-Water Maintenance	Garapan Saipan	Minor Development	Approved* 2/06/2023
7. Beachfront Development, LLC	1/24/2023 APC2023-0020	Three Story Multi-Family Apartment	Garapan Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
8. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel	1/26/2023 CRM-MD2023-0009	Kensington Hotel Bakery Kitchen Room	San Roque Saipan	Minor Development	Approved* 2/08/2023
9. National Park Service, American Memorial Park (AMME)	1/26/2023 PRM23-206	AMME Emergency Sewer Repair	Garapan Saipan	Temporary/Emergency	Approved* 1/26/2023*
10. Saipan Diving World, Inc.	1/27/2023 APC2023-0021	SCUBA Diving/Tour Operation	Garapan Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 2/06/2023
11. East Carolina University (ECU)	2/01/2023 CRM-MD2023-0008	23-1 MP Archeological Investigation	Tanapag Saipan	Minor	Approved* 2/07/2023
12. Aqua Gate, Inc.	2/02/2023 APC2023-0022	SCUBA Diving/ Tour Operation	Dandan Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 2/06/2023
13. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	2/02/2023 CRM-MD2023-0010	Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant Clarifier	Sadog Tasi Saipan	Minor	Under Review*
14. Rota Mayor's Office	2/07/2023 RSm-2023-001	As Matmos Pavilion	As Matmos Rota	Shoreline/Cliffline	Under Review*
15. Rota Mayor's Office	2/07/2023 RSm-2023-002	Pona Point Pavilion	Pona Point Rota	Shoreline/Cliffline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Off The Wall

Tiny mouse wins big title

AP

This Jan. 10, 2023, photo provided by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance shows a Pacific pocket mouse named Sir Patrick Stewart.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A tiny California mouse now has a big title after winning a Guinness World record for longevity.

A Pacific pocket mouse named Pat—after "Star Trek" actor Patrick Stewart—received the Guinness approval Wednesday as the oldest living mouse in human care at the ripe age of 9 years and 209 days, the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance announced after a certification ceremony.

Pat was born at the at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park on July 14, 2013, under a conservation breeding program, the alliance said.

The Pacific pocket mouse, which weighs as much as three pennies, is the smallest mouse species in North America and gets its name from cheek pouches the animals use to carry food and nesting materials, the wildlife alliance said.

The mouse once had a range stretching from Los Angeles south to the Tijuana River Valley but the population plunged after 1932 because of human encroachment and habitat destruction, the alliance said.

The mouse was thought to be extinct for 20 years until tiny, isolated populations were rediscovered in 1994 in Dana Point in Orange County but the species remains endangered, the alliance said.

In 2012, the alliance began a breeding program to help save the mouse from extinction. Last year, the alliance recorded 117 pups born in a record 31 litters. Many of the mice will be reintroduced to the wild this spring, the alliance said.

Woman is found to be breathing hours after being declared dead

MILLER PLACE, N.Y. (AP)—An 82-year-old woman was pronounced dead at a New York nursing home but found to be breathing three hours later at the funeral home where she had been taken, authorities said.

The woman was pronounced dead at Water's Edge Rehab and Nursing Center at Port Jefferson on Long Island at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Suffolk County police said.

The woman, whose name was not released, was taken to the O.B. Davis Funeral Homes in Miller Place at 1:30 p.m., police said in a news release. She was discovered breathing at 2:09 p.m., they said.

The woman was taken to a hospital. No update on her condition was available Monday.

The case has been referred to the state attorney general's office for investigation, police said.

The state health department is investigating, as well, spokesperson Monica Pomeroy said, adding that she could not elaborate.

An email seeking comment was sent to the nursing home. A person who answered the phone there Monday hung up.

Officials at the funeral home said in a statement, "Out of respect for the privacy and confidentiality of the families we are honored to serve, we are not in a position to comment further on this matter."

The apparent premature declaration of death occurred days after a continuing care home in Iowa was fined $10,000 over a similar episode.

Authorities there said a 66-year-old woman was declared dead Jan. 3 at the Glen Oaks Alzheimer's Special Care Center in Urbandale, where she was receiving hospice care.

NZ police discover 3.5 tons of cocaine in Pacific Ocean

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand police said Wednesday they found more than 3 tons of cocaine floating in a remote part of the Pacific Ocean after it was dropped there by an international drug-smuggling syndicate.

While they had yet to make any arrests, police said they had dealt a financial blow to everyone from the South American producers of the drugs through to the distributors in what was the nation's largest-ever drug seizure.

New Zealand Police Commissioner Andrew Coster said the cocaine had been dropped at a floating transit point in 81 bales before it was intercepted by a navy ship, which was deployed to the area last week. The ship then made the six-day trip back to New Zealand, where the drugs were being documented and destroyed.

Coster said the wholesale value of the 3.2 tonnes (3.5 tons) of cocaine was about 500 million New Zealand dollars ($316 million) and it was likely destined for Australia.

"We believe there was enough cocaine to service the Australian market for about one year, and this would be more than New Zealand would use in 30 years," Coster said.

He said police, customs and the military found the drugs after launching Operation Hydros in December in collaboration with international partner agencies to identify and monitor the movements of suspicious vessels.

Science & Technology

AI search engines can now chat with us, but glitches still abound

REDMOND, Wash. (AP)—Nearly a quarter-century after Google's search engine began to reshape how we use the internet, big tech companies are racing to revamp a familiar web tool into a gateway to a new form of artificial intelligence.

If it seems like this week's newly announced AI search chatbots—Google's Bard, Baidu's Ernie Bot and Microsoft's Bing chatbot—are coming out of nowhere, well, even some of their makers seem to think so. The spark rushing them to market was the popularity of ChatGPT, launched late last year by Microsoft's partner OpenAI and now helping to power a new version of the Bing search engine.

First out of the gate among big tech companies with a publicly accessible search chatbot, Microsoft executives said this week they had been hard at work on the project since last summer. But the excitement around ChatGPT brought new urgency.

"The reception to ChatGPT and how that took off, that was certainly a surprise," said Yusuf Medhi, the executive leading Microsoft's consumer division, in an interview. "How rapidly it went mainstream, where everybody's talking about it, like, in every meeting. That did surprise me."

HOW'S THIS DIFFERENT FROM CHATGPT?

Millions of people have now tried ChatGPT, using it to write silly poems and songs, compose letters, recipes and marketing campaigns or help write schoolwork. Trained on a huge trove of online writings, from instruction manuals to digitized books, it has a strong command of human language and grammar. But what the newest crop of search chatbots promise that ChatGPT doesn't have is the immediacy of what can be found in a web search. Ask the preview version of the new Bing for the latest news—or just what people are talking about on Twitter—and it summarizes a selection of the day's top stories or trends, with footnotes linking to media outlets or other data sources.

ARE THEY ACCURATE?

Frequently not, and that's a problem for internet searches. Google's hasty unveiling of its Bard chatbot this week started with an embarrassing error—first pointed out by Reuters—about NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. But Google's is not the only AI language model spitting out falsehoods.

The Associated Press asked Bing on Wednesday for the most important thing to happen in sports over the past 24 hours—with the expectation it might say something about basketball star LeBron James passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's career scoring record. Instead, it confidently spouted a false but detailed account of the upcoming Super Bowl—days before it's actually scheduled to happen.

Sheep herd moves democratically

Flocks of birds and schools of fish move in leaderless but coordinated ways that make sense mathematically. A new study discovered the distinctive way sheep herds move.

Earlier theory on sheep's movement held that they make group decisions, led by a "collective brain"

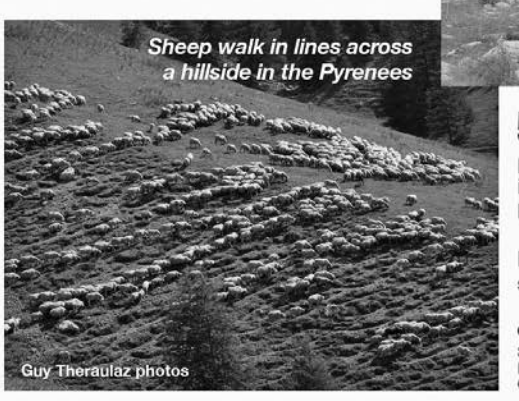
New observations:

1 Instead of moving with the sheep beside and around them, all sheep except the leader sheep follow the animal immediately in front of them

2 The flock gradually forms lines going in the direction chosen by the leader

3 The line of sheep can navigate complex environments – like a maze – if the group leader knows how to find the exit

4 Democratic "leader switching": Sheep that know the way may take over as leaders



5 Stopping to graze: As the group passes different locations with food, individual sheep that see the places become leaders of part of the group

Leader-swapping lets the group split up to graze efficiently

© 2023 TNS

Source: Luis Gomez-Nava of Technische Universität Berlin; Nature Physics journal; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Netflix steps up its effort to get paid for account sharing

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Netflix has a plan to deal with rampant account sharing: a program that lets subscribers pay extra to share their account with people outside their household.

The streaming giant introduced paid sharing in Canada, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain on Wednesday. It was previously rolled out in multiple markets in Latin America.

While Netflix won't say when paid sharing will come to other countries, some version of the plan is expected to be introduced in the U.S. in the next few weeks. Around one-third of Netflix's subscribers live in the U.S. and Canada.

Netflix has more than 231 million paid subscribers in 190 countries. The Los Gatos, California-based company estimates that 100 million households are currently sharing their accounts with others, which impacts the company's ability to invest in new programming.

"We've always made it easy for people who live together to share their Netflix account with features like profiles and multiple streams," the company said in a blog post Wednesday. "While these have been hugely popular, they've also created confusion about when and how you can share Netflix."

Starting Wednesday, Netflix said it will allow standard and premium subscribers in Canada, Spain, New Zealand and Portugal to set up an extra account for up to two people they don't live with for an extra monthly fee. The monthly fee varies by country; in Canada, it's 7.99 Canadian dollars, while in Portugal it's 3.99 euros.

Netflix said it will also allow people who have been borrowing accounts to transfer their viewing history and other preferences to a new, paid subscription.

Netflix didn't say what actions it will take if subscribers continue to share accounts outside their household. In a conference call with investors in January, Netflix co-CEO Greg Peters said the company is trying to be thoughtful and gradual in its rollout.

Disney cuts Simpsons 'forced labor' episode in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—Walt Disney Co. has removed an episode from cartoon series The Simpsons that included a reference to "forced labor camps" in China from its streaming service in Hong Kong.

The company declined to comment on why the episode, "One Angry Lisa" from The Simpsons' 34th season, was not available to stream on the Disney Plus streaming service in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory, according to checks by The Associated Press.

The episode first aired on television in October and it was not clear when the episode was removed from the Hong Kong streaming service.

In the episode, Simpsons character Marge Simpson takes a virtual spin class whose instructor is in front of a virtual background of the Great Wall of China and says: "Behold the wonders of China. Bitcoin mines, forced labor camps where children make smartphones."

The issue of forced labor is sensitive in China. Communist-ruled Beijing has increasingly imposed its controls over Hong Kong, a former British colony, after taking control of the territory in 1997.

China promised that Hong Kong would retain its Western-style freedoms for 50 years after the handover from British rule. But Beijing has been tightening controls after imposing a National Security Law following massive pro-democracy protests in 2019, raising concerns over a weakening of civil liberties such as freedom of speech and the press.

BSO plan to digitize John Williams concerts almost complete

BOSTON (AP)—An effort to digitize more than 200 Boston Pops radio broadcasts conducted by John Williams from 1979 until 1991 is almost complete, the Boston Symphony Orchestra announced Wednesday, Williams' 91st birthday.

The project to preserve 233 live radio broadcasts that were recorded on 256 one-quarter inch (0.63 centimeter) reel-to-reel analog tapes that were becoming increasingly fragile and in danger of chemical deterioration was funded by grants totaling $24,000 from the Grammy Museum and the Council on Library and Information Resource.

The recordings chronicle Williams' work with guest performers from a broad spectrum of the entertainment industry: classical artists like Yo-Yo Ma and James Galway; popular stars such as Joan Baez and Ray Charles; Broadway stars like Carol Channing and Joel Grey; jazz musicians including Wynton Marsalis and Sarah Vaughan; and comedic talents such as Victor Borge.

The concerts were originally broadcast locally before being distributed to radio stations nationwide. Some feature the first concert arrangements of many of the Oscar- and Grammy-winning Williams' film scores.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Biden's State of the Union draws audience of 27.3 million

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 27.3 million people watched President Joe Biden's State of the Union address on television, the second smallest audience for the annual event in at least 30 years, the Nielsen company said on Wednesday. It was also down nearly 28% from the 38.2 million people who saw Biden's address in 2022. The only smaller audience since 1993 was the 26.9 million who watched Biden's address to Congress in 2021—not officially a State of the Union speech, since he had just taken office a few months earlier. That speech was delivered on the unusually late date of April 28.

Disney to cut 7,000 jobs in Iger's company 'transformation'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. will cut about 7,000 jobs as part of an ambitious companywide cost-savings plan and "strategic reorganization" announced Wednesday by CEO Bob Iger. The job cuts amount to about 3% of the entertainment giant's global workforce and were unveiled after Disney reported quarterly results that topped Wall Street's forecasts. Iger returned as CEO in November following a challenging two-year tenure by his handpicked successor, Bob Chapek. The company said the job reductions are part of a targeted $5.5 billion cost savings across the company. As of Oct. 1, Disney employed 220,000 people, of which about 166,000 worked in the U.S. and 54,000 internationally.

Climate change protesters fined over 'Last Supper' protest

LONDON (AP)—Five climate change protesters were fined Wednesday for gluing themselves to the frame of a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" in the Royal Academy of Arts. The five activists from the group Just Stop Oil glued their hands to the painting's border and one sprayed graffiti on the wall at the London museum in July, as part of a series of disruptive protests aimed at raising awareness about climate change. On Wednesday, following a two-day trial, District Judge William Nelson ordered all five to pay 486 pounds ($587) each for criminal damage. He said the protesters were "reckless" because they knew they would damage the painting's frame—but also said that the "primary cause" of the protest "was to gain media attention and not to cause damage to a work of art."

Stranger's abrupt revelation rocks woman's world

DEAR ABBY: I had pretty much an ideal childhood. My parents have never had issues that I ever saw. We went to church every Sunday, gathered with family often, etc. I'm now grown, and my parents are in their mid-80s.

Out of the blue, I got a message on social media from a woman who says she's my father's daughter from when he was 17 years old, before he met my mom. She found out through DNA testing. She is very nice about whether I tell my parents about her. Their health is beginning to deteriorate, and I don't want to stress them more than they can handle. At the same time, I don't know if it is right for me to withhold this information from my dad. I feel so alone in making this choice, so please give me any advice.

SECRET-HOLDER IN GEORGIA

DEAR SECRET-HOLDER: Your father may be unaware that he fathered a child at 17. (Back then, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy was sometimes kept secret and the baby placed for adoption.) He should be given the information privately so he can decide if he would like to meet his daughter and whether, at this late date, your mother needs to know.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My fiancee and I began dating 2 1/2 years ago. We are in our late 50s. We moved in together four months ago and took out an equity loan for improvements on the house. Until we moved in, we were planning our future together, traveling and having fun. Once we moved in, however, everything changed.

Two months later, she came to me saying "something is not right." She says she loves me, she's attracted to me and doesn't want me to leave. She says I treat her like she's never been treated before, and I'm so good to her (her words). But I feel like I have been put into the friend zone. This usually happens after a couple of dates, not years. It's tearing her up because she doesn't want to feel this way, and it has me stumped about how to handle it. Is it cold feet?

BAD CHANGE IN NEW YORK

DEAR BAD CHANGE: I don't know, you don't know and it is possible that SHE can't identify what's "wrong" either. Do not procrastinate. Get a referral to a licensed marriage and family therapist for pre-marital counseling. If the two of you do this, whatever is bothering her will be revealed. If she refuses to go, seek counseling without her. (I hope there is no prepayment penalty on that loan.)

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a friendly person who can get along with most everyone. I am petite in height -- 4-foot-8, to be exact. Recently, while my husband and I were at a social gathering, one of the male guests approached me and commented, "Who let a child in here?" I was not only hurt, but also offended at his rudeness. My husband is much taller than I am, and he has never mistaken me for a child. I'm tired of being judged for my height. Any thoughts?

TINY BUT A TRUE ADULT

DEAR TINY: Was the guest who said it drunk? I can't otherwise account for his egregious breach of etiquette in making a comment about the appearance of another guest at the gathering. I hope you ignore his tasteless comment. (What a nitwit.)

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

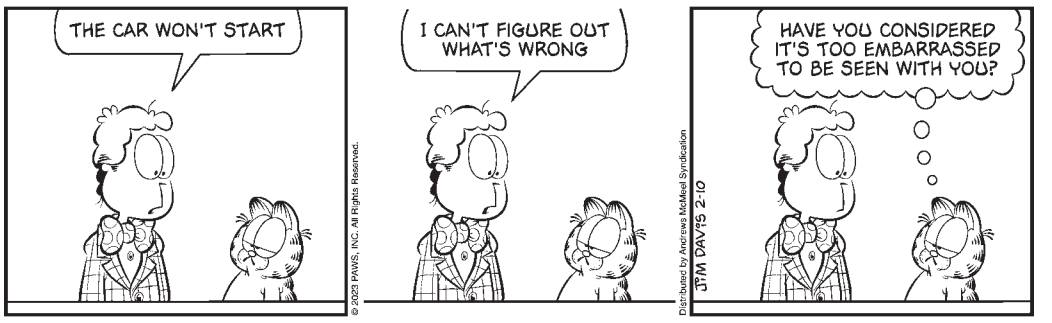
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HERE WE ARE, HIGH ON RIGOR MORTIS RIDGE, STEELING OURSELVES FOR THE TERRIFYING DESCENT INTO GRIM REAPER GORGE!
WHY DO WE RISK LIFE AND LIMB IN A VERTICAL FREE FALL, WHEN WE COULD BE SAFE AT HOME BY THE FIRE?
BECAUSE IT IS MAN'S INDOMITABLE NATURE TO SCARE HIMSELF SILLY FOR NO GOOD REASON!
IF YOU MAKE IT HOME TO THE FIRE, YOU CAN TELL ME HOW IT WAS.
SEE? THIS IS WHY THERE WERE NEVER ANY GREAT ANIMAL EXPLORERS!

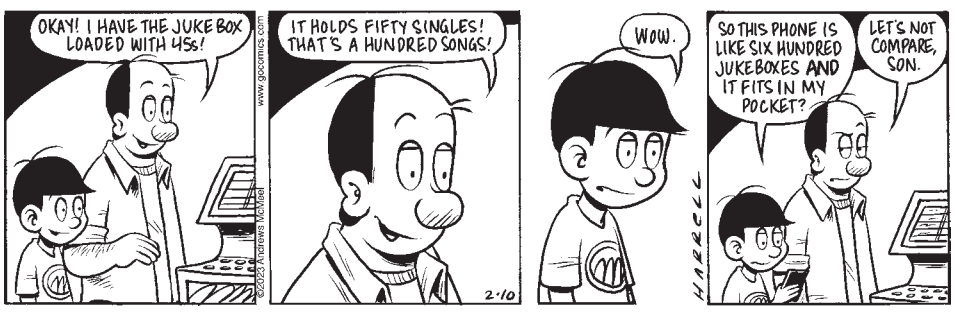
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY! I HAVE THE JUKE BOX LOADED WITH 45s!
IT HOLDS FIFTY SINGLES! THAT'S A HUNDRED SONGS!
WOW.
SO THIS PHONE IS LIKE SIX HUNDRED JUKEBOXES AND IT FITS IN MY POCKET?
LET'S NOT COMPARE, SON.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 ABBA's "— Mia!"
6 Melancholy
9 Billboards
12 Made even
13 Pub pint
14 Buddy
15 Panorama
16 Sweetie's "goodbye"
18 1935 Astaire film
20 Answer an invite
21 Whatever
23 Singer McGraw
24 Titled women
25 Magician's word
27 Chops finely
29 Fruit flaw
31 Flamenco cheer
35 Rosters
37 Unforeseen problem
38 Airship
41 In medias —
43 Wall St. deal
44 Highly rated
45 Gretzky's game
47 Gloater's cry
49 Self-congratulatory words
52 Scratch (out)
53 "Life of Pi" director Lee
54 Senior moments?
55 Concorde, e.g.
56 "Not impressed ..."
57 Dodge

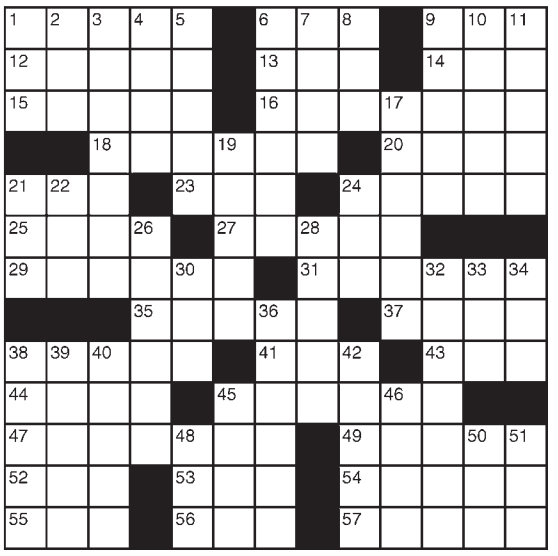
DOWN

1 "True Life" network
2 Shapiro of NPR
3 "Is this necessary?"
4 "Fly — the Moon"
5 Conform
6 Deli meat
7 Oodles
8 "Lion" star Patel
9 Bottomless gulf
10 Took the wheel
11 Meal starters
17 Deletes
19 Takes on
21 NYPD alert
22 Hide-hair insert
24 Costa — Sol
26 Made a movie
28 Trig ratio
30 Try the wine
32 Classic Platters hit song
33 Science room
34 Swelled head
36 Slop holder
38 Kathy of "Misery"
39 Takes a gander
40 Cove
42 Video chat format
45 Sharpen
46 Hoops legend Monroe
48 Candied veggie
50 2500, in Roman numerals
51 Jargon suffix

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	E	S	T	■	C	B	S	■	A	C	T	E
A	L	L	A	■	O	O	H	■	S	O	R	T
M	A	I	L	■	L	O	O	■	S	L	I	T
E	L	D	E	S	T	■	P	L	E	D	G	E
■	■	■	S	I	R	■	■	O	R	B	■	■
R	I	C	E	■	A	L	C	A	T	R	A	Z
E	C	O	■	■	N	E	O	■	■	E	R	A
F	I	L	M	R	E	E	L	■	S	W	A	G
■	■	■	O	O	O	■	■	O	W	L	■	■
R	O	S	I	T	A	■	R	E	A	L	M	S
A	S	S	N	■	X	I	I	■	T	E	A	L
S	H	U	E	■	E	L	S	■	E	N	T	O
P	A	S	S	■	L	E	T	■	S	A	S	E

Yesterday's answer 2-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chloe Grace Moretz, 26; Emma Roberts, 32; Stephanie Beatriz, 42; Elizabeth Banks, 49.

Happy Birthday: Don't lose sight of your dreams. Use your imagination and intelligence to figure out what makes you happy and how to incorporate what you want into your everyday routine. Change may not be the answer to everything. Address your options and put your energy where it counts to get the desired results. Practicality, coupled with intelligent spending, will pay off. Your numbers are 5, 12, 21, 28, 36, 39, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pick and choose what works best for you. Don't try to live in someone else's shadow when your happiness depends on being true to yourself. Get life moving in a productive direction. You'll gain perspective and get positive results. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Balance and integrity are mandatory if you want to partner with someone. Project what you plan to accomplish and listen to the input you receive. Don't let stubbornness stand between you and your dreams. Show leadership by being humble and accommodating. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let someone's actions freeze your plans. Say no to demands and head in a direction offering benefits to you instead of someone else. An original approach to an old idea will give you the edge you need to come out on top.✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Partner with someone you care about or can learn from, and something worthwhile will transpire. Don't feel you have to overspend or pay for others to have fun or win favors. Use your intelligence to save and add stability to your life. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Honesty will pay off. Speak from the heart, and suggestions will be forthcoming. Take heed of how you feel and any health issues or injuries that have the potential to worsen. It's up to you to find and take advantage of opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change is long overdue. Refuse to let someone's hissy fit stop you from doing what's best for you. Don't let anger be your downfall; ignore negativity and you'll find the passage to a positive path that gives you hope. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Focus on fun things to do with people you enjoy. Sign up for a challenge that will lift your spirits and make you proud. Use your energy wisely, and you'll reap the rewards. Be prepared to take advantage of whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look at how you run your house or how others influence your lifestyle; consider how to ensure you live life your way. Question what's being asked of you, and let your intuition guide you every step of the way. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Stop procrastinating and make a move. Travel, reunions, educational pursuits and separating the positive from the negative in your life will get you back on track and give you plenty of food for thought. Embrace doing things your way. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotions will take you for a ride. Step away from situations that cause you grief and evaluate your options. Stay calm and keep your thoughts to yourself until you are ready to forge ahead. Start by making a positive change at home. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Assess your financial situation and decide your next move. Supplementing your income with a part-time position or lowering your overhead using common sense will ease your mind and encourage you to find prosperity. Focus. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You can dream, but when it comes to getting things done, reason, common sense and hard work will be necessary. Connect with people you enjoy working alongside, and the feedback you receive will keep you on track. Personal improvements and romance are favored. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, responsive and charming. You are a visionary and a go-getter.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1				5			
					4		1	2
	6	8				5		
6	8				1			
9				4			2	
1		3						4
7		9	4		8	2	3	
8				1	2			9
		1		9			4	6

Difficulty: ★★★★ 2-10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	7	3	8	1	5	2	4	9
5	8	1	2	4	9	7	3	6
9	2	4	7	3	6	8	1	5
1	5	8	9	2	4	6	7	3
4	9	2	6	7	3	5	8	1
3	6	7	5	8	1	9	2	4
8	1	5	4	9	2	3	6	7
2	4	9	3	6	7	1	5	8
7	3	6	1	5	8	4	9	2

Difficulty: ★★★ 2-9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

QUEBEC CITY MARDI GRAS — Solution: 7 letters

M	A	S	C	O	T	I	C	E	P	A	L	A	C	E
O	I	E	N	I	T	U	O	P	A	R	A	D	E	M
N	S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	U	O	T	H	D	M
T	C	T	T	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	C	O	A	O
R	E	R	E	E	E	S	T	S	A	E	F	C	R	H
E	L	U	E	E	N	M	N	O	L	R	E	K	E	N
A	E	M	G	W	W	S	A	F	Y	U	S	E	U	O
L	B	P	I	M	W	S	E	G	R	T	T	Y	Q	B
A	R	E	E	I	G	R	I	Ⓛ	A	P	I	F	S	F
V	A	T	N	N	U	F	K	Ⓔ	U	L	V	F	A	R
A	T	T	O	T	F	A	S	Ⓝ	R	U	A	A	M	E
N	E	S	N	E	U	Q	O	Ⓣ	B	C	L	T	N	N
R	E	I	P	R	A	G	U	S	E	S	N	O	W	C
A	E	S	I	A	R	D	N	U	F	L	O	A	T	H
C	A	N	O	E	R	A	C	E	M	U	T	S	O	C

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 2/10

Bonhomme, Canoe Race, Carnaval, Ceinture Flechée, Celebrate, Costume, Effigy, Feast, February, Festival, Float, French, Friends, Fundraise, Games, Hockey, Ice Palace, Lent, Mascot, Masquerade, Mittens, Montréal, Neige, Parade, Poutine, Sculpture, Ski, Snow, Songs, Sugar Pie, Sweets, Taffy, Toque, Tournaments, Trumpet, Winter

Yesterday's Answer: Structural

The NEW **Volume 70** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Kyrie scores 24 in Dallas debut as Mavericks beat Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kyrie Irving scored 24 points in his Dallas debut and the Mavericks defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 110-104 on Wednesday night.

The eight-time All-Star was traded to the Mavs on Sunday from the Brooklyn Nets. He was part of a 13-0 spurt early in the game, scoring eight points on a jumper and back-to-back 3-pointers.

Irving had four rebounds and five assists in 37 minutes of what amounted to a dress rehearsal before injured Luka Doncic returns to give the Mavs a powerhouse backcourt.

Reggie Bullock scored 15 of his 18 points in the first quarter against his former team. All five Dallas starters reached double figures.

Norman Powell had 24 points for the Clippers.

CELTICS 106, 76ERS 99

BOSTON (AP)—With three of Boston's regular starters out—and Jaylen Brown soon to join them—Malcolm Brogdon and Derrick White scored 19 points apiece to lead the Celtics over Philadelphia.

Jayson Tatum had 12 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for Boston, which won for the fourth time in five games to improve the NBA's best record (39-16). The 76ers (34-19) are second in the Atlantic Division and third in the Eastern Conference, having lost both matchups with the Celtics this season.

Joel Embiid scored 28 points and James Harden added 26 points and 11 assists for the Sixers, who lost their second in a row. They had won nine of their previous 11.

Marcus Smart, Robert Williams III and Al Horford all missed the game with injuries. Blake Griffin got the start and hit five 3-pointers for a season-high 15 points, and Grant Williams had 15 points and eight rebounds.

TRAIL BLAZERS 125, WARRIORS 122

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Damian Lillard had 33 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds as Portland rallied past Golden State.

Jordan Poole scored 38 for the Warriors, who played without injured guard Stephen Curry. Klay Thompson added 31 points on his 33rd birthday, including seven 3-pointers.

HEAT 116, PACERS 111

MIAMI (AP)—Bam Adebayo tied his season high with 38 points, Jimmy Butler added 25 and Miami held off Indiana.

Gabe Vincent had 17 points, Tyler Herro scored 15 and Caleb Martin finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who snapped a two-game slide.

Buddy Hield scored 29 points for the Pacers, who have lost 13 of 15. Myles Turner had 23 points and 11 rebounds.

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving, right, drives past Los Angeles Clippers guard Terance Mann during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, in Los Angeles.

CAVALIERS 113, PISTONS 85

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jarrett Allen scored 20 points, Evan Mobley added 19 and Cleveland topped Detroit for its fourth straight victory despite resting its starting backcourt.

All-Star starter Donovan Mitchell (groin) and Darius Garland (thumb) got the night off to heal some nagging injuries, but the Cavaliers barely missed their top guards.

With Allen and Mobley doing inside damage and combining for 21 points, Cleveland built an 18-point lead after one quarter. The Pistons hung around and got within two in the third before the Cavs opened the fourth by outscoring Detroit 26-4 over the first seven minutes to put it away.

RAPTORS 112, SPURS 98

TORONTO (AP)—Pascal Siakam had 37 points and 10 rebounds, Fred VanVleet scored 16 and Toronto handed San Antonio its 10th consecutive loss.

Chris Boucher added 18 points and 11 rebounds off the bench in Toronto's third straight win. Gary Trent Jr. scored 15 for the Raptors, who have won their past five meetings with the Spurs.

Keldon Johnson had 22 points for San Antonio, which hasn't won since Jan. 17 against Brooklyn. It's the second time this season the Spurs have dropped at least 10 straight.

KINGS 130, ROCKETS 128

HOUSTON (AP)—De'Aaron Fox scored 31 points, including three free throws with less than a second left, to lift Sacramento over Houston.

Fox was fouled by Eric Gordon on a 3-point attempt with 0.3 seconds to play, setting up the game-winning free throws. Fox, who also had 11 assists, made consecutive baskets to get the Kings within one with 42.2 seconds to go.

Jalen Green scored 41 points and Alperen Sengun finished with 18 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds as the Rockets dropped their fourth straight.

TIMBERWOLVES 143, JAZZ 118

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored 31 points and Jaylen Nowell added a career-high 30 to lead Minnesota over Utah.

Playing loose, the Timberwolves set a season high with 79 points in the first half and led 107-80 midway through the third quarter, helped by 64% shooting from the field and 61% from 3-point range.

WIZARDS 118, HORNETS 104

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kristaps Porzingis scored 36 points and matched a career high with eight 3-pointers as Washington beat Charlotte to stop a three-game skid.

Deni Avdija had 20 points and 13 rebounds and Bradley Beal added 17 points and 10 assists for the Wizards, who handed the Hornets their fifth straight loss.

Source: Lakers trading Westbrook to Utah in 3-team swap

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers are trading Russell Westbrook to Utah and reacquiring guard D'Angelo Russell from Minnesota in a three-team, eight-player deal, a person with knowledge of the trade told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced the major deal made ahead of the NBA's trade deadline Thursday.

Los Angeles is also getting guard Malik Beasley and forward Jarred Vanderbilt from the Jazz, bolstering its core around LeBron James in a bid to jump-start its sputtering season. The Lakers fell to 25-30 on Tuesday while James set the NBA's career scoring record, and they sit in 13th place in the 15-team Western Conference.

The Lakers are sending Juan Toscano-Anderson, Damian Jones and their first-round pick in 2027 to Utah with Westbrook.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the trade. Those outlets also said Minnesota is getting Mike Conley and Nickeil Alexander-Walker from Utah, along with three second-round picks.

Minnesota won 143-118 at Utah on Wednesday night, and all five players involved in the trade weren't in uniform. Most players and coaches couldn't speak directly about a trade that hadn't been announced, but Minnesota coach Chris Finch acknowledged the challenge of playing short-handed amid roster upheaval.

"We just talked briefly about things before taking the floor," Finch said. "It's unfortunate timing. You don't ever get to pick your timing. But maybe in some ways it was good that we could just play a game and not have to overthink things."

Westbrook's tenure with his hometown team lasted just 130 tumultuous games. The 2017 NBA MVP never thrived with James and injury-plagued Anthony Davis for any significant stretch of time, struggling to mold his possession-heavy game into a more complementary role.

A move to the bench last fall led to minor improvements over a dismal 2021-22 season, but Westbrook still appeared profoundly uncomfortable with the Lakers, who are in danger of missing the playoffs for the second straight year. Westbrook averaged 17.4 points, 7.2 assists, 6.9 rebounds and 3.7 turnovers per game during his time in Los Angeles, where fans grumbled regularly about his poor shooting and turnovers.

The 34-year-old Westbrook is making about $47 million in the final year of his contract. Several months after the Lakers infuriated a large portion of their worldwide fan base by not trading Westbrook in the summer, they swapped him for Russell, who played his first two NBA seasons with the Lakers after they chose him with the second overall pick in the 2015 draft.

Russell was a rookie during Kobe Bryant's final season, and the point guard was the most consistently entertaining part of two poor Lakers teams before Magic Johnson traded him to Brooklyn in 2017. Russell is now being traded for the fourth time in his eight NBA seasons.

Russell is averaging 17.9 points, 6.2 assists and 3.1 rebounds while hitting a career-best 46.5% of his shots with Minnesota in the final year of a contract paying him more than $31 million this season. His style on both ends of the court also could complement James and Davis better than Westbrook, although the Lakers will have little time to figure it out.

The Timberwolves courted Russell hard when he was on the market in July 2019, when Brooklyn ultimately landed on a sign-and-trade deal that sent Kevin Durant to the Nets and shipped Russell to Golden State. The Wolves eventually acquired Russell at the deadline in Feb. 2020 and teamed him with his draft-class pal, Karl-Anthony Towns.

The Russell-Towns pairing never really took off, in part because of injuries for each player that often kept them from being on the court at the same time. The Wolves drafted Anthony Edwards with the first overall pick in 2020, integrating another high-impact offensive player into the lineup whose value is minimized without frequent touches.

The Wolves made the playoffs in 2022, but only recently have Russell and Edwards truly clicked after coach Chris Finch made Edwards the primary ball-handler and moved Russell into an off-ball position to better maximize his shooting ability.

Russell is shooting a career-best 39.1% from 3-point range, having made five or more shots from deep in six of his last 17 games.

Conley is more of a pure distribute-first point guard than Russell, who has never been a tenacious perimeter defender, either. The 35-year-old Conley is averaging 10.7 points and 7.7 assists in his fourth season with Utah.

Utah's Jordan Clarkson said it was "super-hard to say goodbye" to Conley after four years together.

"That guy was like Yoda, honestly," Clarkson said. "He had so many stories, and he had such an enlightenment about him. You just listened to him. ... He can communicate with anyone."

Conley will reunite with big man Rudy Gobert, whose transition to Minnesota has been slow. Conley and Gobert meshed well with the Jazz, and their collective experience in the playoffs ought to also help a Wolves team that has been remarkably inconsistent this season while trying to keep up in the crowded race.

There'll be an even bigger Minnesota reunion on the Lakers, with Vanderbilt and Beasley going to LA where Patrick Beverley already plays—although Beverley is showing up in numerous trade rumors himself in the final hours before the deadline. All four of those players helped the Timberwolves get the No. 7 seed for the playoffs last season before Vanderbilt, Beasley and Beverley were traded to the Jazz in the Gobert deal.

Beasley is a strong outside shooter, averaging 13.4 points while hitting 35.9% of his 3-pointers for the Jazz. The 6-foot-9 Vanderbilt has averaged 8.3 points and 7.9 rebounds per game, excelling on defense and on the boards while starting 41 of his 52 games.

Chiefs' Mahomes says ankle will be ready for Super Bowl

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes says he's "definitely in a better spot" when it comes to his ailing right ankle than he was for the AFC championship game, and the All-Pro quarterback doesn't expect to be limited by it when he leads the Kansas City Chiefs against the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl.

Mahomes said before Wednesday's practice at Arizona State's facility that he continues to get treatment on the ankle, which he hurt in the divisional round against Jacksonville, and that it will probably continue up until Sunday's kickoff.

"You won't know exactly how it is until you get to game day," he said. "I mean, I definitely move around better than I was moving last week or two weeks ago. So it's just trying to continue to get the treatment and the rehab and get it as close to 100% and then rely on some adrenaline to let me do a little bit extra when I'm on the field."

Mahomes hurt the ankle when a Jaguars pass rusher landed on it late in the first quarter. X-rays taken during the game came back negative, and he returned in the second half to lead Kansas City to the 27-20 victory.

Mahomes spent the next week getting treatment on the ankle, and he credited trainers Rick Burkholder and Julie Frymyer with getting him in shape to play for the AFC title. And while he was clearly hobbled by the high ankle sprain, and several times limped away from hits, Mahomes was available against Cincinnati when the Chiefs needed him at the end.

It was Mahomes who sprinted on his sore ankle in the closing seconds, then took a big late hit along the sideline, getting Kansas City within range of Harrison Butker's 45-yard field goal that punched its ticket back to the Super Bowl.

AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes answers a question during an NFL football Super Bowl media availability in Scottsdale, Ariz., Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023.

"He's been doing really well with his ankle," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said Wednesday. "We had a fast practice a couple days ago and he moved well. He can really do just about everything—at least everything in the game plan we asked him to do."

Still, concern about Mahomes' ankle persists. When Missouri Chief Justice Paul Wilson delivered his annual State of the Judiciary speech Wednesday to the Missouri Legislature, he added a twist to the typical closing line.

"May God bless each of you, may God continue to bless the great state of Missouri and, of course, may God bless Patrick Mahomes' right ankle," Wilson said to resounding applause from state lawmakers.

Back in Arizona, the Chiefs had everyone available as they ramped up with a more intense practice Wednesday.

That included JuJu Smith-Schuster, who missed practice last week with swelling in his knee, and fellow wide receiver Kadarius Toney, who likewise skipped all the workouts in Kansas City with a sprained ankle. It also included cornerback L'Jarius Sneed, who cleared the concussion protocol this week and returned to practice.

All three of those players, along with linebacker Willie Gay Jr., were hurt in the AFC championship game. Gay came away with a relatively minor shoulder injury and practiced last week along with this week.

The Chiefs also are keeping a close eye on running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire, who was activated off injured reserve when wide receiver Mecole Hardman went on IR with a pelvis injury this week. The 2020 first-round pick has been out since November with a high ankle sprain, but there's a chance Edwards-Helaire could be active for the Super Bowl.

If active, he would give the Chiefs a change-of-pace back behind Isiah Pacheco and Jerick McKinnon.

Hamlin appears during Super Bowl event to receive award

PHOENIX (AP)—Damar Hamlin made a brief appearance in Phoenix during Super Bowl week to receive the NFLPA's Alan Page Community Award.

The Buffalo Bills safety received the award at the Phoenix Convention Center on Wednesday, a little over a month after he went into cardiac arrest and needed to be resuscitated on the field in Cincinnati.

"One of my favorite quotes: it's a blessing to be a blessing," Hamlin said, reading from a brief statement with his parents on stage with him. "With that being said, I plan to never take this position for granted and always have an urgent approach to making a difference in the community where I come from and also communities across the world."

Hamlin was one of five finalists for the Alan Page Award, which annually recognizes one player who goes above and beyond to perform community service in his team city and/or hometown. His foundation received $100,000 with the award.

"He is not only an individual who has overcome a tremendous amount, he's not only a person who reminds us just how dangerous this game is, but also the spirit, the love, the joy, the fraternity of people who play this game," NFLPA executive director Demaurice Smith said.

Hamlin's toy drive fundraiser received unexpected GoFundMe donations in the days and weeks after he collapsed. Chasing M's has since raised more than $9 million.

"Giving back to my community has always been a part of who I am," Hamlin said. "I'm thankful for my father, who's right here behind me, growing up watching him doing community days in our community. I always was waiting on my time when it came."

Hamlin collapsed on the field after a collision with a Cincinnati Bengals player and had to be resuscitated before being taken away by ambulance. He spent nearly a week in a Cincinnati hospital before being flown to Buffalo, where he spent a couple of days in the hospital before being released on Jan. 11.

Hamlin started visiting the Bills' facility shortly after that and attended Buffalo's divisional game against Cincinnati, receiving a rousing ovation when he was shown on the video board.

JUHN

From Page 24

"I haven't started any classes at the moment but I am sure I will be able to balance out my athletic career and my academic career. My swim team takes care of our schedule so all I have to do is follow that and I will be fine!"

His coach at Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center, Hiroyuki Kimura, said he's not at all surprised that his ward got an early call-up from Hosei University's swimming team.

"The Hosei University Swimming Team is a very traditional team with 100 years of history. It has produced many Olympians and World Championship medalists. Because it is such a team, practice is very high level and so hard. Juhn was a top swimmer in the NMI, but he is just an average swimmer in the Hosei team."

The CNMI national swimming coach said Tenorio literally getting his feet wet bodes well for his budding college swimming career.

"In order to get used to the hard practice, he should start practicing earlier than his swimmates. Also, the Hosei team and coaches have high expectations of Juhn, so they allowed him to join the team practice early," he said.

Kimura, however, advised Tenorio to also enjoy college life and is excited about this new chapter in his former swimmer's life.

"Swimming practice is of course important, but enjoying college life is also as important. I want him to study hard and become a great swimming coach who will help the NMI in the future."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Juhn Tenorio in the pool while training with the Hosei University Swimming Team.

CRUZ

From Page 24

till the time was up. If I had a few more seconds, I believe the match would've been in my favor."

"The winner was determined by score. It was 0 to 0 on points, 3 to 1 on advantages, so my opponent got the lead in advantages and won the overall score," Cruz said on how the points are determined.

Besides her most recent conquest in Paris, the 30-year-old had a very productive 2022 in her chosen sport after competing in numerous tournaments and super fights.

At purple belt, some of her notable accomplishments are: ADCC West Coast trials (Top 16), gold medalist in World Masters Championship, silver medalist in No-Gi World Championships, Bronze medalist in Gi and No-Gi American Nationals, gold medalist in San Diego International open, and bronze medalist in the Los Angeles Open.

Cruz then thanked her sponsors Lone Fox Bistro & Lounge, Mind2Muscle, and Guam Nutrition and Fitness Coach.

"I'd like to thank the sponsors who facilitated the trip to compete in Paris. They are all small local businesses from Saipan and Guam, who have helped me greatly in my goals as an athlete, and especially competing in the European Championships. I appreciate the support coming from back home. It keeps me in pursuit of my goals and propels me further into the sport as an athlete from the CNMI. They are aiding in paving the way for future athletes of the CNMI who would like to compete abroad, and at the highest levels."

Cruz added, "I'd like to thank my teammates (Baret Submissions) and professor Baret Yoshida in San Diego who prepare me daily for all my competitions, and the sponsors who facilitated the trip to compete in Paris."

When asked what her plans are for this year, Cruz said that she has plans to compete in more events.

"I am hoping to get more super fight opportunities in submission only rule sets (these are mostly invitational, and will require more experience), while pursuing other titles at the highest level of Jiu-Jitsu! To list a few upcoming tournaments I will be participating in the Los Angeles International Open and Pan American Championship in March 2023 (Florida), and then World Championships in the Summer (California)."

At just age 24, Cruz started jiu-jitsu and she currently trains under the tutelage of Baret Yoshida from Team Baret Submissions at The Training Center, San Diego. She's been training with the same team for six years.

Cruz graduated high school in 2010 and college in 2013. She left for San Diego, California in 2015 and still resides there today. She currently works in the mortgage industry and is continuing her studies for web development.

If you are interested in sponsoring or supporting Cruz in upcoming competitions, email marilynsmcruz@gmail.com.

NMBPF

From Page 24

and six females into the bodybuilding team and that they already have at least four official coaches who have volunteered to coach for the upcoming Games.

She said that besides the 2023 Pacific Games, she is also looking forward to the last bodybuilding qualifying competition for those who want to compete for fun and for those who want to try to make the cut for the national team.

June 10, 2023 is the set date for the next Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation.

More details about the upcoming competition is to follow in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

HMS wins, TMS and SIS draw in MS girls soccer

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the return of school soccer, Hopwood Middle School girls beat Dandan Middle School, 6-1; while Tanapag Middle School ended their game against Saipan International School in a draw, 2-2, in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League on Tuesday NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The HMS Hilitais put their cleats into action early as Alyssa Borlongan opened the season with a goal down the middle in the 6th minute of play. Teammate Yelynn Ha then found the back of the net not 4 minutes later for a 2-0 game.

Borlongan was an unstoppable force on the field as she calibrated her kicks precisely for the second time in the 18th minute, then rounded it off with a third for the hat-trick in the 39th minute.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Sage Xu, right, attempts a goal against Tanapag Middle School in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Ha followed her lead as she also completed the hat trick after her second goal in the 14th minute and third goal in the 20th minute.

By this time, the DMS Tottots had finally broken through the goal and were up on the scoreboard thanks to Jahsmin Ramon's shot 30 minutes into the game.

However, father time wasn't on the Tottots' side as the game ended with no more attempts at the goal.

In the TMS Tatagas and SIS Geckos game, a battle to break the tie ensued for the last half of the game with none of them successful.

The Geckos' Beatrice Gross drew first blood in the early minutes of the first half and went on to score the team's second goal three minutes later.

Meanwhile, the Tatagas did not have any attempts at the goal that stuck in the first half, with their first goal made by Isabella Cruz in the 38th minute. The second goal was made by teammate Xyriel Pascual 5 minutes later for a 2-2 game.

The Geckos and Tatagas had no more goals in them as the clock wound down in sync with the sunset.

The rest of the teams playing this season are Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and ChaCha Ocean View Middle School.

The games are set for every Tuesday and Thursday, with the scheduled championship tourney on March 7.

6JMS Vicious victorious in Ladies Division

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

6JMS Vicious took no prisoners en route to winning the Ladies Division of the 2022-2023 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League that held its awards banquet last Sunday at Saipan World Resort.

The team finished the season with a 202-98 win-loss mark, followed by Oleai Tracy's Smokerz's 177-123 and Jenny's Party Queen's 162-123.

6JMS Vicious is made up of Frances Magofna, Jamie Hayes, Virginia Cruz, Mary Lois Blaluk, Godiva Asanuma, and Emy Oiterong. The team is sponsored by 6JMS Sports Bar.

In the Fanihi Division, Spicy Thai Double Chin Double Out left no doubt they'd win the championship after finishing with a record of 174-96.

Bistro Hittaz was runner-up with a 153-117 mark followed by Tambayan Distracted at 151-119.

The Fanihi Division champions, which were backed by Spicy Thai, include Samma "Tulu" Litulumar, Barion "Ice Box" Jones, Brandon "Big Bee" Babauta, Ben "Flow" Flores, June Viper Orencia, and Dexter "No Flex" Rabauliman.

9 Eleven Twisted Tribe came in first in the Flame Tree Division with a 184-71 record.

True North Da'Pares came a close second with a 181-74 mark with sister team True North Vipers completing the Top 3 with a 168-82 record.

The champion team is made up of Steve "RoadKill" Santos, Mike "Spanky" Dela Cruz, John "Lischoll" Santos, Toby "T-Bag" Castro, Russ "Mr. Pogi" Cruz, Ryan Saures, Skem Kaipat, Shane Pangelinan, and Coby "Smooth" Santos. 9 Eleven Resto Bar II sponsored the team.

In the Inter-Govt League, True North Power G Mafia 2 topped the division with a 212-103 record. True North Got UR 6ix and True North DLNR No fear came in second and third with marks of 199-116 and 174-126, respectively.

MARK RABAGO

6JMS Vicious players show off their championship trophies after winning the Ladies Division of the 2022-2023 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League during the awards banquet last Sunday at Saipan World Resort.

Ray "Udas" Cepeda, Patrick "Taco" Taitano, Joker Camacho, Jayson John, Julian "Fadang" Camacho, Dexter "No Flex" Rabauliman, Joe Lisua, and Alfres Hocog make up the True North Bar and Grill-sponsored team.

SEDA also named their MVPs for the past season and they're the following: Toto Aureo (C-Division), Partick Cruz (Tuesday B Division), Tanner Maratita (Flame Tree B Division), Sam "Tulu" Litilumar (Fanihi B Division), Darion "Ice Box" (A Division), Jones Nestor Abing (A+ Division), Dexter 'No Flex' Rabauliman (Inter-Govt League), and Frances Magofna (Ladies Division).

The sportsmanship awards were also given to Jonny's Darty Queens in the Ladies Division, Pepoy's 101 Proofers in the A Division, Just Chillin Teama Kalakas in the Latte Stone Division, Oleai Darty By Nature in the C Division, Last Shot Believers in the Flame Tree Division, Tambayan GVD Mix in the Fanihi Division, and 6JMS Only Fanz in the Inter-Govt League.

Ramsey, Abel are Top 2 seeds in men's open

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Colin Ramsey and Tomas Abel may likely meet again in the finals of the men's open of the 2023 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament set to start this weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

This, after the two protagonists of the men's finals of the recent 2023 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament are seeded No. 1 (Ramsey) and No. 2 (Abel) in the two-weekend competition. Ramsey beat Abel in two sets in the SIS tourney.

In the women's open, familiar foes Hye Jin Elliot and Serin Chung are the players to beat with the former probably wanting payback after Chung surprised her in the aforementioned SIS tourney last month.

Ramsey is teaming up with Taher Shakir as the top seed in the mixed doubles with Simon Tang and Siwoo Lee giving them the biggest challenge as the second-seeded pair.

In the boys 12, Jinho Cody Park is atop the totem pole with Minjoon Michael Jeon next in line.

Stella Choi and Vivian Chung are 1-2 in the girls 12, while Nason Wessel and Yutaka Kadokura will duke it out in the boys 14 as the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds, respectively.

In the boys 16, Siwoo Lee, Simon Tang, Wataru Kadokura, June Yu, and Henry Choi are all entered with no discernable favorite.

Ditto for the girls 16 where Anne Lee, Irin Chung, and Hoo Wang will try to outplay each other.

In the men's 40, Gary Ramsey, Paul Jang, and John Bradley will try to relive their salad days in the sport, while Dev Bachani is briefly exchanging his soccer cleats for tennis shoes as the No. 1 seed in the men's 3.0, where Jay Achas is the second seed.

Fellow soccer player Cody Shimizu holds fort as the top seed in the men's 4.0 with Taher Shakir providing the biggest threat as the second seed.

All green for 'Run for the Red' tomorrow

The American Red Cross "Run for the Red" is this Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6am.

The course will be around the airport field and all proceeds will go to support the Red Cross here in the CNMI.

Registration is $25 and includes a long sleeve event shirt, mini first aid kit (first 300 to register), refreshments, and snacks.

"We are excited to be partnering with Run Saipan for our first ever 5K run and walk. In addition, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Marianas Health Services will be on site to provide flu and COVID-19 shots as well as blood pressure and sugar checks.

CHCC will provide a $30 gas voucher to everyone who gets a COVID shot," said ARC-CNMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh.

Medals and prizes will be given to the top adult, kids, and stroller finishers. E-Land Group has donated pool passes and bunch vouchers as event raffle prizes from Kensington, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point.

Registration is at https://raceroster.com/events/2023/71090/run-for-the-red-5k or via the QR code.

For more information, contact the Red Cross office at (670) 234-3459 or Robin Sapong at (670) 788-0929.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org/nmi. ***(PR)***

Kyrie scores 24 in Dallas debut as Mavericks beat Clippers

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HMS wins, TMS and SIS draw in MS girls soccer

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Juhn starts training at Hosei University

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Juhn Tenorio gestures the double victory sign as he recently started training with the Hosei University Swimming Team.

CNMI national swimmer Juhn Tenorio has started training with the Hosei University Swimming Team.

The 18-year-old Marianas High School alumnus was invited to train with the varsity team ahead of other freshmen and two months before his actual enrollment ceremony.

"It's a learning experience everyday since my teammates are at a high level," he said in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio admitted that training with one of the top-ranked swimming teams in Japan is tough, to say the least.

"I wake up about 4:15am and prepare my gear, bike to the train station for about 20 minutes, and from the train station we walk another 20 minutes to the practice facility. It's a struggle and it does get hard sometimes but I'm enjoying everything at the moment. Spending time with my comrades, practicing, gym work, and recovery. All these things make me happy not only as any athlete but as a person."

Tenorio said his routine so far includes swimming about 6-8 kilometers everyday plus gym work, which encompasses all of three hours.

"It is a lot of work but I am 100% confident that if I keep this training up I will reach our goal in school!"

As for how he plans to balance swim practice with his college studies, Tenorio said he's pretty confident he'll be up to the task.

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Cruz gets bronze medal in European Championship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marilyn Cruz won the bronze medal in the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation European Championship 2023 held in the Insitut Du Judo in Paris, France from Jan. 23 to 29.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Marilyn M. Cruz, a Kagman High School and Northern Marianas College alumnae, bagged a podium finish in the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation European Championship 2023 held in the Insitut Du Judo in Paris, France from Jan. 23 to 29.

In the purple belt, 48.50-kg division, Cruz placed third behind gold medalist Sonia Ariz Michel, and silver medalist Kamily Takayas de Oliveira. Tied in third with Cruz is Gabrielle Kari Etzel.

In the competition, she said that she believes that she could have placed higher.

"In my last match, at the last few seconds, I was able to get an angle on my opponent and get a better position on her, but she held me off

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'NMBPF had an exciting year'

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation, or NMBPF, had an exciting 2022 after its announcement of getting bodybuilding into the 2023 Honoria Pacific Games program.

After their great turnout of 21 competitors in last November's first bodybuilding qualifying competition, Dee Clayton, president of the DC Classic and the NMBPF rated the year a perfect 10 out of 10.

"The year 2022 was an exciting year for bodybuilding and we look forward to another exciting year to come. We are now working on eventually finalizing a bodybuilding team to represent the NMI in the 2023 Pacific Games," said Clayton.

The highlight of the year, she said, was when it was announced that bodybuilding is in the program of the Pacific Games and that the DC Classic competition held last November was the first qualifier to scout for competitors to join the NMI national bodybuilding team.

She added that the athletes in the competitions are always a big highlight as well. "I've always admired, for the past 11 years of competition, the athletes and the support of the audience."

As for the upcoming Pacific Games, she said "We were invited by the Northern Marianas Sports Association for bodybuilding to be part of the 2023 Pacific Games program and we were very excited. I've heard that there's a lot of people that will join the competition."

Clayton is looking at tentatively getting eight males

See NMBPF on Page 22

LEIGH GASES
Competitors of the 2022 Dee Clayton Classic competition pose for a photo at the Saipan World Resort last Nov. 5.